



Dear ACT for Veterans Stakeholders:

Happy Holidays! As we mentioned last month, workgroup activities have shifted focus from information gathering to defining the future state; and as we move closer to our February Summit, we continue to see steady progress on key priorities. A brief summary is provided below:

1. Grant Huang and Krissa Caroff have held meetings with workgroup leads and managers to discuss information collected to date, identify gaps, and outline plans for the weeks leading up to the Summit.
2. The various documents, references and resources are being collected and work products generated by the workgroups have been placed on a shared workspace to facilitate completion.
3. Grant has been working with Dr. Molly Klote, the newly appointed Director of Research Protections, Policy, and Education, on matters related to Institutional Review Board (IRB) for industry sponsored multisite clinical trials. Activities will be harmonized with larger overall efforts that the VA Office of Research and Development is undertaking to meet new Common Rule requirements and single IRB policies.
4. Conversations have continued with various individuals and offices to identify the best path forward to reduce inefficiencies related to the negotiation and execution of non-disclosure agreements. We will continue to work with those involved in this process with the initial goal of delivering a process that allows for a timely evaluation of those trials that are reviewed by a central body.
5. Summit planning is well underway. We are excited to be able to meet with our workgroup members and see the fruits of their efforts. We will keep all stakeholders apprised of the results.
6. Recently, there have been several activities related to cancer clinical trials in light of the VA-National Cancer Institute called NAVIGATE. Efforts are underway to determine how to best leverage interests and activities in this area.

As we wrap up this year, we would like to express our appreciation to our workgroup members for their hard work and commitment to this initiative. Furthermore, we would like to say, "Thank You" to all of you for your support. Please contact Krissa Caroff, ACT for Veterans Program Coordinator, by email at clinicaltrials@navref.org should you have any questions. We look forward to sharing more successes in 2019!

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