



# The New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science

For more about NJ ACTS:  
<https://njacts.rbhs.rutgers.edu>

### Or contact:

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New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (NJ ACTS), an NIH CTSA



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### What Is NJ ACTS?

The New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (NJ ACTS) represents a consortium of partners and affiliates with the common goal of increasing the quality and quantity of health-related research in New Jersey. The NJ ACTS partner institutions, New Jersey Institute of Technology [NJIT], Princeton University, and Rutgers University), have a legacy of collaboration enhanced by their proximity and unique expertise.

Led by the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, NJ ACTS includes the New Jersey CTSA Hub, two schools of medicine, schools of nursing, dental science and public health, hospitals, community health centers, outpatient practices, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, insurers and policymakers.

### What Is the NJ ACTS Mission?

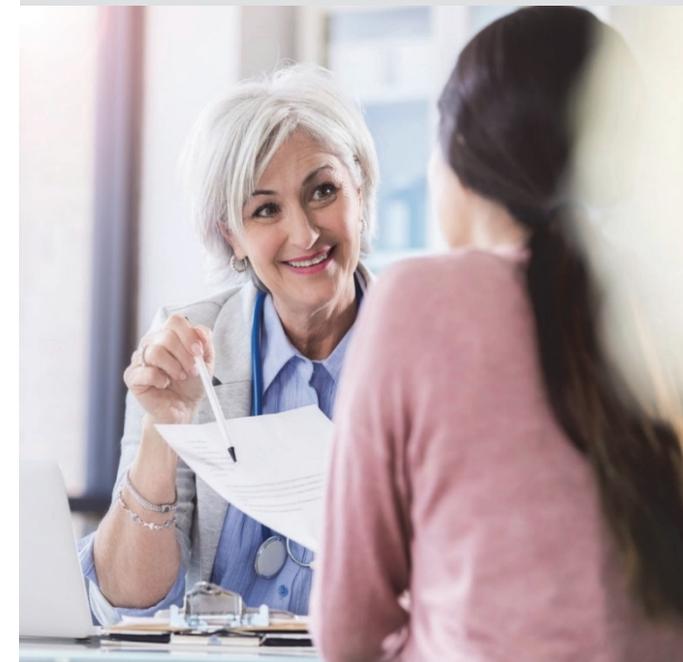
To advance translational science across the consortium by training the next generation of researchers and by providing scientific infrastructure for understanding the heterogeneity of disease and of response to interventions in diverse individuals, communities and populations. NJ ACTS is particularly focused on the different ways diseases manifest and how different people

Clinical and translational research spans much of the research related to human health.

### What is Clinical and Translational Research?

**Translational research** transforms discoveries in the laboratory to new treatments and biomarkers to improve human health or cure disease.

**Clinical research** specifically involves testing better ways to treat, prevent, diagnose, and understand human disease. People volunteer to participate in carefully conducted investigations. Clinical research includes clinical trials that test new treatments and therapies as well as long-term natural history studies, which provide valuable information about how disease and health progress.





# Clinical and Translational Research in NJ

## What is a CTSA?

Awarded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health, a Clinical and Translational Sciences Award or CTSA creates a series of Hubs that work together to improve the translational research process to get more treatments to more patients more quickly. The hubs collaborate locally and regionally to catalyze innovation in training, research tools and processes.

## Why is Clinical and Translational Research Important in NJ?

New Jersey has been a major global hub for biopharmaceutical industry for more than a century, and leads the nation with 139 biopharma manufacturing facilities. Although New Jersey is the most densely populated and most diverse state, and should be the perfect place to recruit patients for clinical trials, New Jersey ranks only 15th in clinical research. NJ ACTS aims to change that.

### I'm a patient or community member. Can I get involved?

Absolutely! NJ ACTS wants to create community partnerships to better understand the health concerns of our diverse communities. This will help us chose issues of relevance for our research programs.

For more information on our community-based participatory research programs and partnerships, contact: 848-932-0219.

**Help us, help others!** Studies need volunteers like you to participate in clinical and behavioral studies. Some trials require patients with a specific disease or trait, while others want health volunteers.

Information on clinical studies available at Rutgers is available at:

<http://cro.rbhs.rutgers.edu/findclinicaltrial.html>

You can also volunteer through ResearchMatch, a national study volunteer system at:

[www.researchmatch.org](http://www.researchmatch.org)

### I am a faculty member at Rutgers, NJIT or Princeton. How do I get involved and what do I get from NJ ACTS?

NJ ACTS cores provide infrastructure, tools and services that will enable faculty to perform clinical research, design and conduct clinical trials. Pilot grant programs seed new projects and/or provide platforms to bolster pre-existing projects into new directions. These programs encourage collaboration across Princeton, NJIT and Rutgers and with the community or other partners. The Career Development Award provides support and training for **junior faculty** to develop their research programs, and Training Grants support **pre-docs and post-docs** committed to translational research.

### I am a clinician. Does NJ ACTS benefit me?

Of course. Do you have questions about how to get involved in clinical trials? NJ ACTS can help. Are you surprised by the heterogeneity of response of your patients to certain treatments...ever wonder why? NJ ACTS is especially interested in the heterogeneity of disease and response to therapy and can link you with scientists to pursue these questions.

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### What are the different components of NJ ACTS?

There are 14 cores, each dedicated to developing infrastructure and tools for faculty, trainees and staff. Some, like Pilots, provide seed money grants, while others, such as Informatics and Special Populations, are developing tools to help faculty access clinical datasets. The Institutional Development Award supports young faculty as they develop their research programs, and the Institutional Training Award provides doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows interested in careers in translational research with support and training.

Cores and leaders include:

<b>Leadership</b>	Reynold Panettieri, MD, Director Mark Einstein, MD, Associate Director
<b>Informatics</b>	Frank Sonnenberg, MD
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Shawna Hudson, PhD Alfred Tallia, MD, MPH
<b>Collaborative Science</b>	Edmund Lattime, PhD
<b>Workforce Development</b>	Lauren Aleksunes, PhD
<b>Pilot Grants</b>	Chen Liu, MD, PhD
<b>Biostatistics</b>	Jason Roy, PhD
<b>Regulatory</b>	Céline Gélinas, PhD
<b>Special Populations</b>	Steven Crystal, PhD
<b>Trial Acceleration and Recruitment Core</b>	Sunanda Gaur, MD Howard Kipen, MD, MPH
<b>Biomarker Core</b>	Maria Gennaro, PhD
<b>Machine Learning</b>	Jonathan Cohen, MD, PhD
<b>Career Development</b>	Sally Radovick, MD
<b>Training Grant</b>	Kathleen Scotto, PhD