Formation of a new National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at NIH  Shortly after taking the reins of the NIH as director, Dr. Francis Collins initiated a review by its Scientific Management Review Board. In December 2010, the SMRB recommended the creation of a new Center that will combine programs such as the CTSA with others including the Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases (TRND), Molecular Libraries, and the Cures Acceleration Network. The CTSA Steering Committee endorsed this plan to link up the entire spectrum of translational research that is vital to the health of the nation. As Dr. Collins recently wrote, “NCATS is not intended to be a drug company. It is a facilitator of translational research across the NIH and complementary to translational research already being conducted and supported in the individual NIH Institutes and Centers. NCATS will seek ways to leverage science to bring new ideas and materials to the attention of industry by demonstrating their value.”

In March 2011, a joint Working Group of NIH Institute directors and members of the CTSA Steering Committee began to work on fleshing out a plan for integrating the various components of NCATS. See http://feedback.nih.gov/index.php/category/ncats/