Efficient Method for Creating NIH Training Grant Tables Using a RedCap Faculty & Trainee Database and NIH xTract

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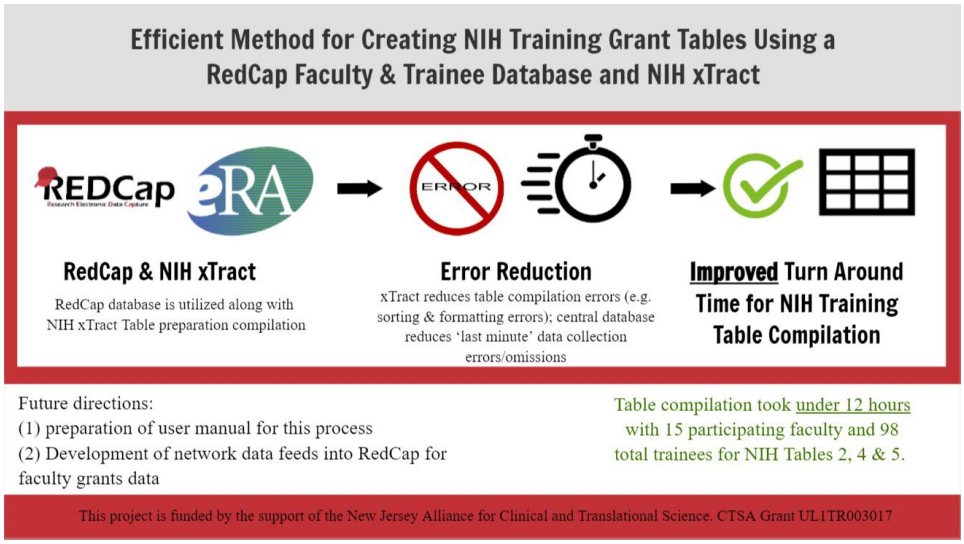
Introduction/Background:
One of the biggest challenges that research institutions face is turnaround time for generation of high-quality NIH Training Tables for NIH training grants (e.g. T32, K12, TL1, KL2 …), which are required in all training in most grant submission packages. Preparation time varies by institutions with some schools starting require data accumulation 6 months in advance and others 3 months or less in advance. Traditionally, institutions separate pools of data in the form of Excel spreadsheets among all the graduate predoctoral & postdoctoral training programs across the university. We sought to create a more efficient method of data collection and construction for NIH Tables (2, 4, 5 & -8A pt III/8C part III).

Methods:
Our new approach employs a central RedCap database coupled with NIH xTract for table preparation compilation with the following primary aims: (a) to reduce errors within compilation; (b) centralize, data collection, (c) reduce formatting errors, and (d) reduce errors with data sorting steps. Using Rutgers RedCap database and NIH xTract, table compilation took under 12 hours with 15 participating faculty and 98 total trainees for Tables 2, 4 & 5.



Results:
Using this approach with a centralized RedCap database and NIH xTract, the NIH Table 1,2, 3, 4, 5A/B, 6A/6B took under 12 hours to develop for 15 participating faculty and 98 trainees.

Conclusion:
Establishing an efficient compilation method requires future directions to be taken. Future directions: (1) preparation of user manual for this process; (2) Development of network data feeds into RedCap for faculty grants data (research office) and human resources data (for postdocs data). Our hope is that this methodology is helpful for research institutions through increasing efficiency of NIH Table 1-8 compilations overall for training grants more efficient. This project is funded by the support of the New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science.