



Multifaceted Needs Assessment of Researcher Perceived Barriers in Translational Research

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Translational research specifically involves designated stages through which a study advances, beginning with T0, preclinical studies. Between the different stages, there are barriers and bottlenecks that critically affect each transition and progression along the translational research spectrum. The goal at hand was to identify and categorize the wide range of commonly encountered barriers in translational research within the NJ ACTS CTSA hub using a comprehensive needs assessment survey.

Primary literature sources and supplemental NCATS Translational Science course material guided the development of the survey content. The survey was subsequently disseminated to all researchers engaged in translational research at the NJ ACTS CTSA hub, including its affiliated institutions and partnered healthcare systems.

Initial analysis (N=107) yielded these top barriers in the NJ ACTS CTSA hub: obtaining timely IRB approval, inadequate staffing for the research team, and lack of holistic institutional support. Further

analysis of the survey results through a lens of comparing preclinical and clinical research indicated that 72% of preclinical researchers cited recruiting adequately trained research staff as their top major barrier, whereas 73.3% of clinical researchers pinpointed lack of sufficient time to achieve research goals as their top major barrier. Various other sub analyses will be conducted, such as comparing barriers in clinical research across different hospital systems and barriers faced by physician vs. non-physician PIs. The aggregate survey data and findings can be utilized to develop feasible institutional solutions to overcome prevalent barriers and improve efficiency in all parts of the research process. Possible solutions encompass accessible resources for researchers, longitudinal training programs, consultative services, workshops for investigators, and communication strategies to bridge the gap between the research departments causing delays in the research process.

