# Cancer Trials Support Unit (CTSU) Contract Renewal Proposal

Board of Scientific Advisors March 25, 2019 Shanda Finnigan, MPH, RN

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## **Cancer Trials Support Unit (CTSU)**

The CTSU is a service of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) that supports clinical trial management and conduct. The CTSU provides services to NCI-sponsored programs such as the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), the Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN), and the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), and other Multi-Center Organizations.

- CTSU use across clinical trials steadily increased since the start of the program
- ~87% of actively enrolling treatment trials utilize CTSU services
- Greater than 95% of newly activated (2017, 2018) treatment trials utilize CTSU services

## **CTSU Objectives**

- Provide centralized operational support activities for NCI Clinical Trials conducted by the NCTN, ETCTN, NCORP, and other Multi-Center Organizations
- Facilitate investigator/research staff participation in NCI multi-center programs/clinical trials
- Increase investigator and patient awareness and enrollment
- Provide standardized, integrated, and comprehensive support services
- Identify best practices and streamline or eliminate redundant processes
- Improve operational efficiency, enhance productivity and deliver products offering measurable business value

## **CTSU Background**

- Established in 1999 to streamline and harmonize support services for Phase III Cooperative Group cancer clinical trials funded by the NCI
- Scope has expanded to include support of multiple NCIfunded networks and clinical trials of all phases and types:
  - cancer treatment
  - prevention and control
  - advanced imaging
  - correlative science studies
- IOM report and follow-up workshops cited CTSU as a mechanism to reduce duplication and assure consistency in Group (NCTN) processes

#### **CTSU Scope**

- 24/7 Operational support for the entire lifecycle of a clinical trial
- Supports an NCI Grant portfolio with a combined FY 2019 funding level of ~\$343M/Year
  - CTSU ~\$23M/year budget represents 5-6% of the Grant portfolio budget

Recent analysis of average cost of PHARMA-led oncology clinical trials:

| Phase   | Cost per Study    | # of CTSU supported trials |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Phase 1 | \$4.5M per study  | 74 (Phase 0, 1, 1/2)       |
| Phase 2 | \$11.2M per study | 200 (Phase 2)              |
| Phase 3 | \$22.1M per study | 298 (Phase 2/3, 3)         |

Reference: Sertkaya, A., Wong, H.-H., Jessup, A., & Beleche, T. (2016). Key cost drivers of pharmaceutical clinical trials in the United States. *Clinical Trials*, 13(2), 117–126. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/1740774515625964">https://doi.org/10.1177/1740774515625964</a>

# CTSU's Integral Role in Support for NCI's Clinical Trials Network Programs

## Pre-enrollment/Local Site Study Set-up

IRB Approval/Site activation

CTSU Regulatory Support System:

Integration with NCI Central IRB

Access to protocol/study documents

CTSU Website

Uniform document posting (single document used by Groups, Sites, NCI,

Central IRB)

Electronic Medical Record (EMR)
Build

CTSU Website

•EMR "Cheat Sheet" prepared by CTSU

Billable Procedures
Determination

CTSU Website:

 National Coverage Analysis documents prepared by CTSU

Site staff ready to initiate the study.



Protocol Activated by Lead organization.





# **Subject Enrollment**

Streamlined process with multiple checks to ensure GCP compliance



Oncology Patient Enrollment Network (OPEN)

Subject ready to enroll.

Subject Enrolled

Study Eligibility
Confirmed

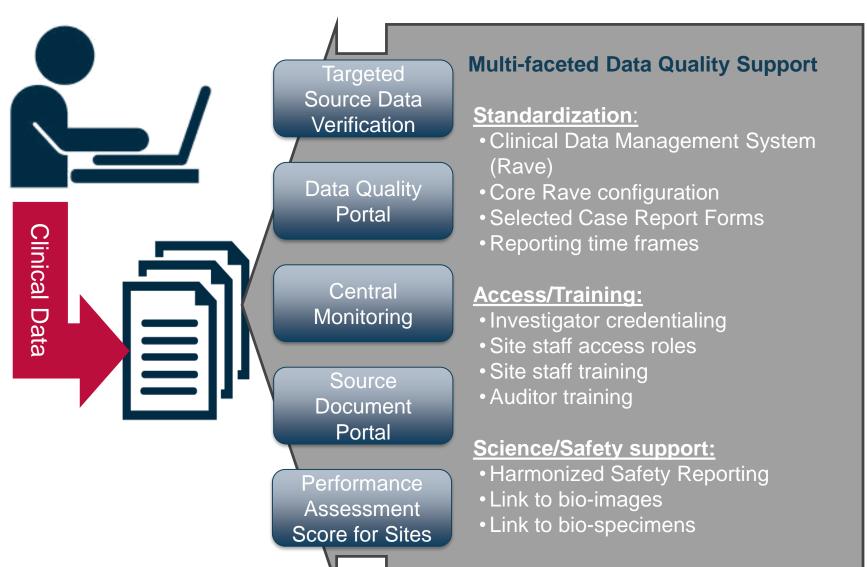
Treatment
Assignment/
Randomization

IRB Approval Confirmed

Protocol Specific Requirements met

Investigator
Registration (1572)
Confirmed

## **Study Conduct/Monitoring**



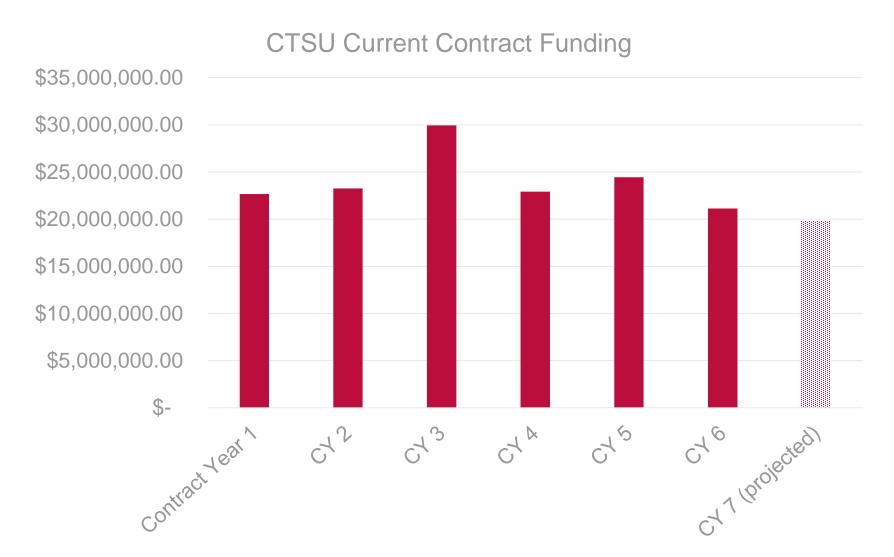
# **CTSU By the Numbers**

| Accruals via CTSU                                      | 40,451 Subjects (CY5)<br>180,565 Subjects (CY1-5)                 |
|--|---|
| Active, Unique Individuals Supported                   | 21,348 Site Staff (Currently)<br>17,688 Investigators (Currently) |
| Average CTSU Website Logins/Month                      | 85,548 (CY5)  |
| Protocols Posted to the CTSU Website                   | 587 (Currently)   |
| Average IRB Approvals Processed/Month                  | 21,391 (CY5)  |
| Data Quality Portal (DQP) Data Warehouse               | +150 million records (Currently)                                  |
| Average Help Desk Inquiries Per Month                  | 1,893 (CY5)   |
| Studies using Targeted Source Data Verification (TSDV) | 317 (Currently)   |
| National Coverage Analysis                             | 157 (Completed to Date)   |
| NCI CIRB document postings                             | All studies   |

#### Accomplishments

- Supported transition to NCTN/NCORP/ETCTN
- CDMS (Rave) Integration across Networks
- Supported Precision Medicine trials
  - e.g., MATCH, Exceptional Responders, LUNG-MAP
- Implemented Biospecimen Navigator
- Safety Database Integration
- Implemented data standardization across Networks
- Supported increased regulatory compliance
  - Registration and Credential Repository (RCR)
  - Delegation of Tasks Log (DTL)
  - CDISC compliance
- Site support for Electronic Medical Record (EMR)/National Coverage Analysis (NCA)
  - ETCTN: 11 EMR builds/7 NCAs (project began in early 2018)
  - NCTN: 2 EMR builds/146 NCAs (EMR work deprioritized d/t budget constraints/competing priorities)

# CTSU Current Contract Funding – decreasing over final years of contract



# Moving Forward: Optimize Current Services and Integrations to Further Increase Efficiency

- Maintain and enhance/optimize operational, administrative, regulatory support of current Grant portfolios and new Grantees as identified
- Maintain and enhance/optimize integration activities/standardization
  - EMR/NCA
  - CDISC
  - Data Standards across Networks
- Leverage multiple contractors (vs. a single contractor/ "Jack of all trades")
  - Divide contract service areas into smaller units
    - Flexibility to address new needs/regulations/requirements, emerging technologies, etc.
  - Increase Contract awardee pool
    - Current contract: 2 awardees, Future contract: 4-8 awardees
  - Benefits:
    - Increased competition
    - Utilization of experts without subcontracting costs
      - Ex. EMR builds

# **Budget for Contract Reissue**

- Budget request for a 10 year Contract period
- Requested budget of \$23 million per year represents a small decrease over the average expenditure of current contract
  - Includes an allowance for COLA

Thank you.

Questions/Discussion



