



# Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Efforts Under the ACT for ALS

March 8, 2024



**WELCOME**

*Building a rare disease community that works. Together.*

# Housekeeping



We will have an opportunity for Q&A after the presentations.

If you are joining us virtually, please place your questions in the Zoom chat.



Today's event is being recorded and may be photographed.

The recording will be made available on the C-Path website and YouTube channel after the event.



Restrooms



Please silence all cell phones

## FDA Office of Media Affairs - Press Contacts:

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# Opening Remarks

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**Jacqueline Corrigan- Curay, JD, MD**

*U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*

*Principal Deputy Center Director, Center for Drug  
Evaluation and Research (CDER)*

# ARC Website

- <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder/accelerating-rare-disease-cures-arc-program>



# Support for clinical **T**rials **A**dvancing **R**are disease **T**herapeutics (**START**)



CBER's START Pilot Program

[Industry.biologics@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Industry.biologics@fda.hhs.gov)



CDER's START Pilot Program

[CDER.STARTProgram@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CDER.STARTProgram@fda.hhs.gov)

# Opening Remarks

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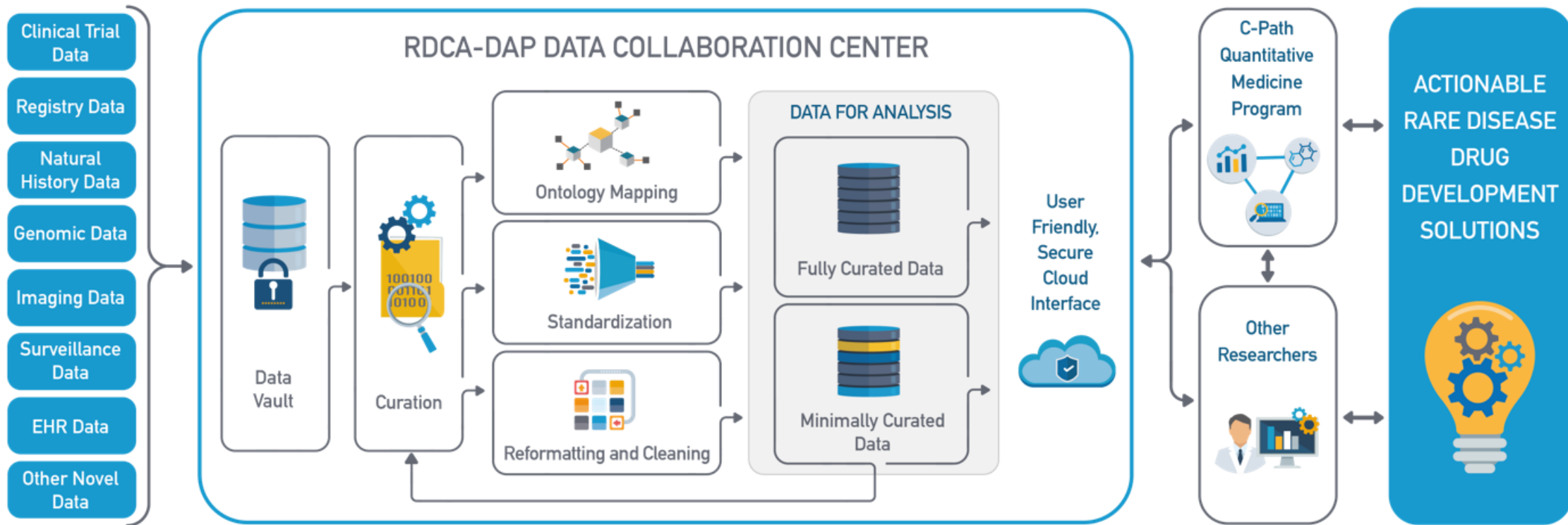
**Klaus Romero, MD, MS, FCP**

*Critical Path Institute (C-Path)*

*Chief Executive Officer*

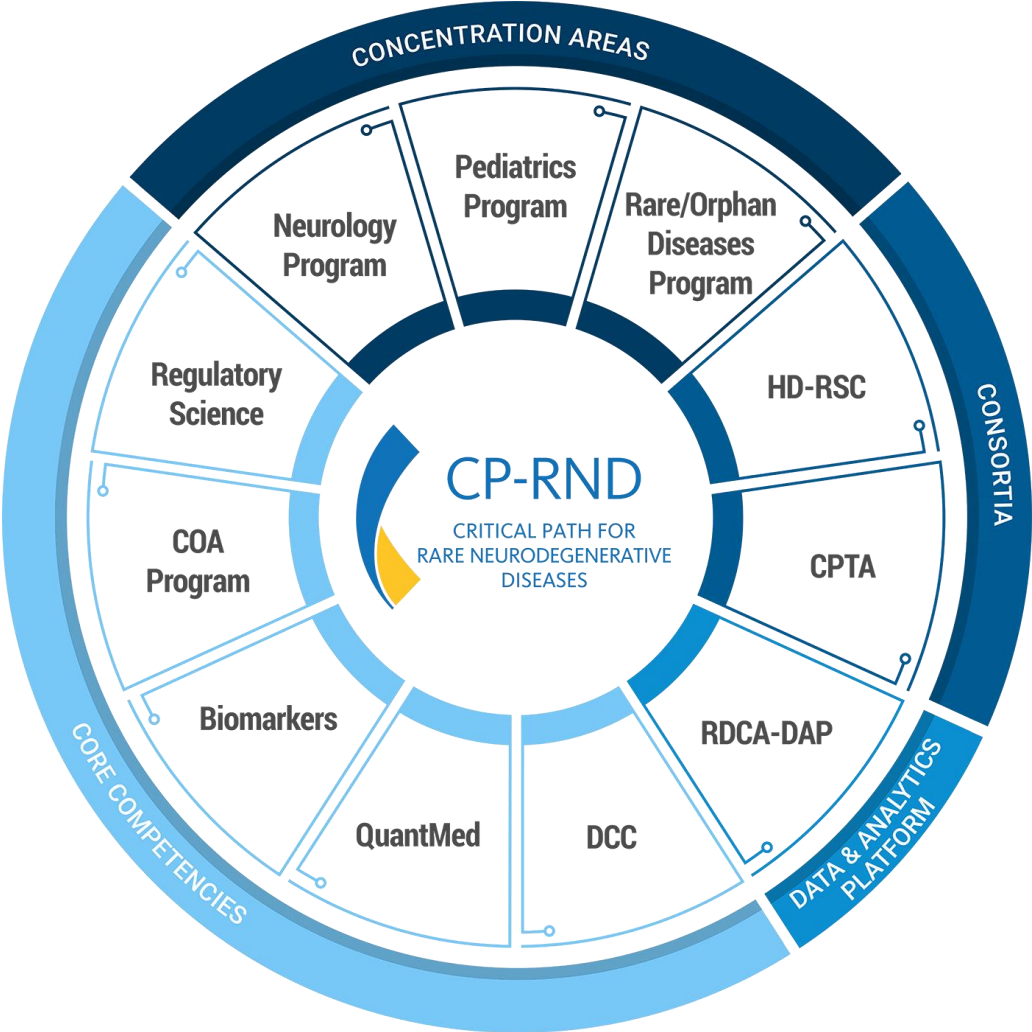


# From opportunities to solutions (data to insights)





# CP-RND benefits from everything C-Path has to offer



## OOPD's Efforts Relevant to Advancing Development of Medical Products for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases

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**Katherine Needleman, MS, PhD, RAC**

*U.S. Food and Drug Administration*  
Director, Orphan Products Grants Program

# **OOPD's Efforts Relevant to Advancing Development of Medical Products for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases**

Katherine Needleman, MS, PhD, RAC  
Director, Orphan Products Grants Program

FDA/OOPD

March 8, 2024

# Outline

- Brief Background
- Clinical Trial Grant Program
- Natural History Grant Program
- Rare Neurodegenerative Grant Program
  - What has been done
  - What FY24 brings

# Office of Orphan Products Development

- The Office of Orphan Products Development (OOPD) provides incentives for sponsors to develop products for rare diseases.
- **Mission:** To promote the development of drugs, devices, biologics, and medical foods for patients with rare diseases and special populations.

DESIGNATION PROGRAMS		GRANT PROGRAMS	
1	Orphan Drug Designation & Exclusivity	1	Orphan Products Clinical Trials Grant Program
2	Rare Pediatric Disease (RPD) Designation	2	Orphan Products Natural History Grant Program
3	Humanitarian Use Device Designation (HUD)	3	Pediatric Device Consortia Grant Program
		4	Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program

Learn more about OOPD Grants programs:

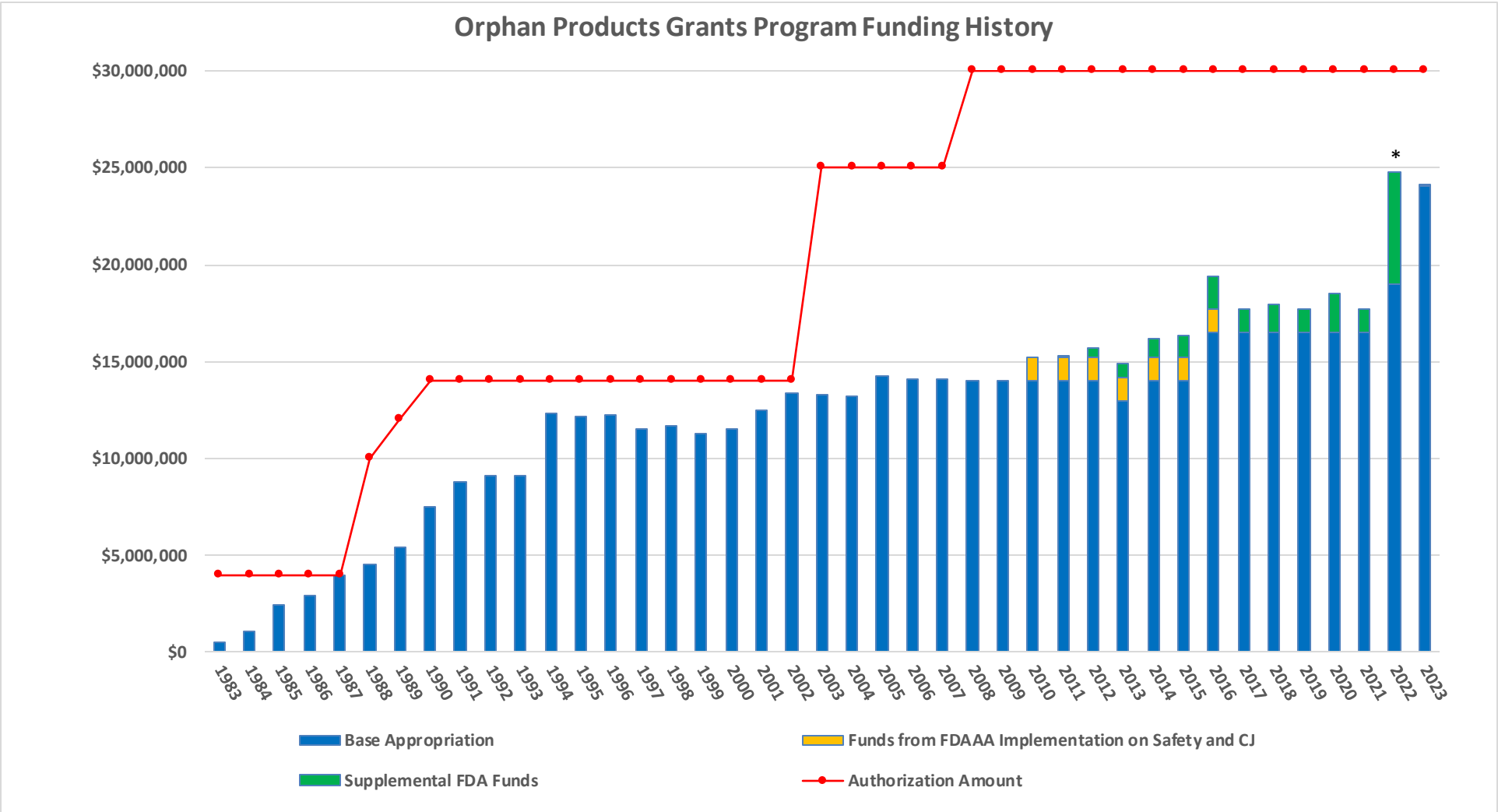
[Office of Orphan Products Development | FDA](https://www.fda.gov/orphan)

# Orphan Products Grants Program



- **Established:** 1983
- **Overall Budget:** ~\$19M
- **Goal:** To advance the development of orphan products (drugs, biologics, devices, or medical foods) that demonstrate promise for the diagnosis or treatment of rare diseases or conditions
- **Clinical Trial Grants**
  - Funding ~ 75 ongoing studies
  - Focus on efficiency and innovative trial designs
  - Grants have led to over 85 product approvals
  - Publications, impact on field
- **Natural History (NH) Grants**
  - Launched Program in 2016
  - Currently funding 14 grants
  - Potential impact for clinical trial development and supporting regulatory decisions
  - Collaborations with industry and patient groups and publications

# OOPD Grants Budget Still Below Authorization Amount for Years



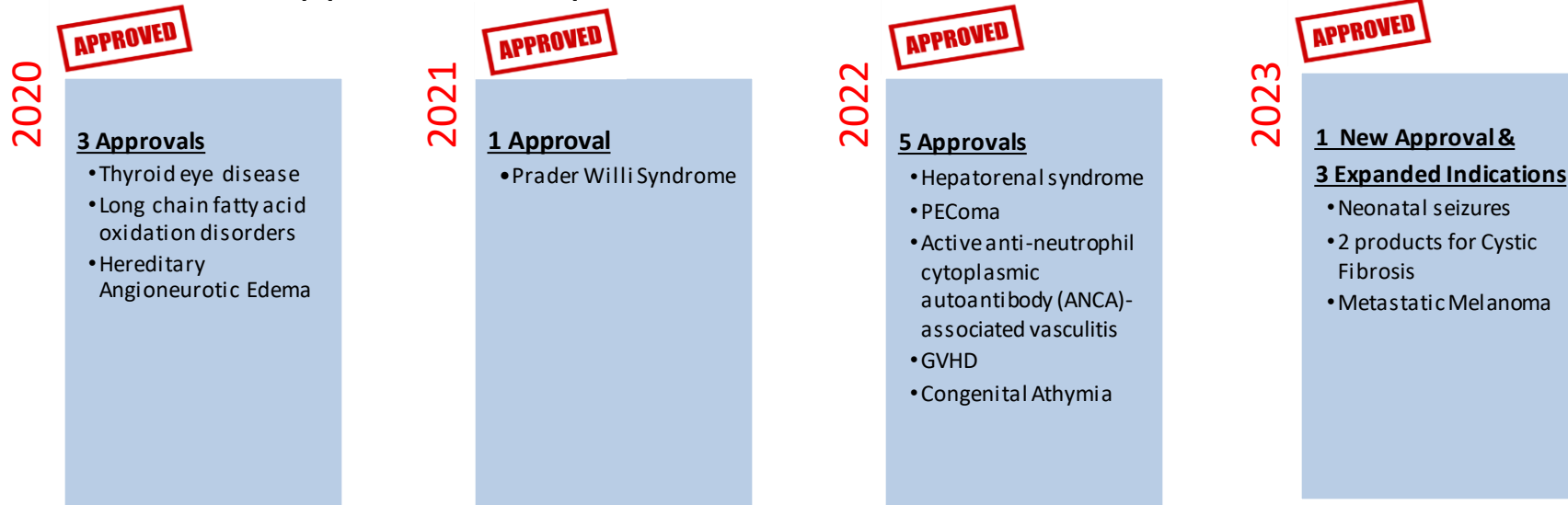
\* RNDD Grants Program Funding Began



# OOPD Grant Statistics: Clinical Trial Grants

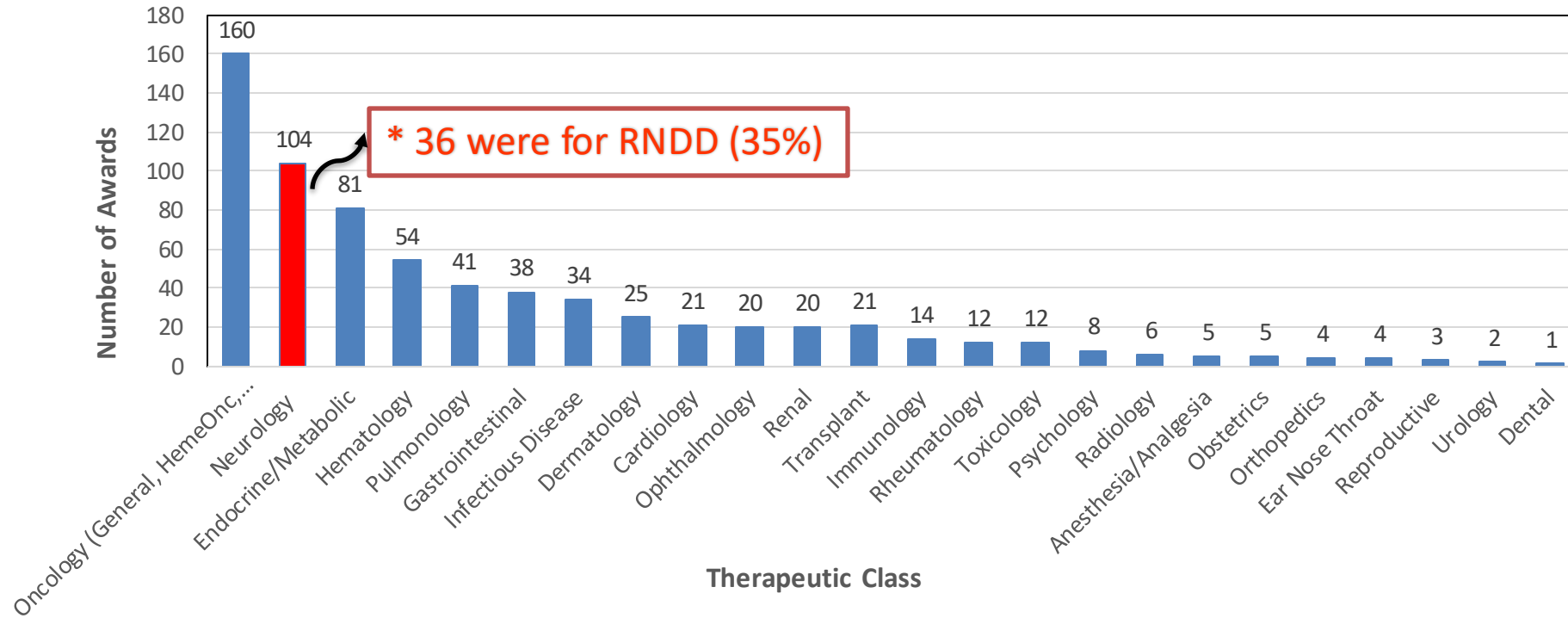


- Since 1983, FDA’s OOPD:
  - Reviewed >3100 grant applications
  - Provided more than \$530 million for more than 800 rare disease studies
- Over 85 FDA approved products were at least partially funded through the OOPD Grants Program for over 90 indications
  - ~10% of funded-studies have been used towards approval
  - Recent approval examples:





# Therapeutic Classes represented from Clinical Trials awarded grants 1983-2023



# RNDD Prior to 2022

## Prior to ACT for ALS, OOPD funded:

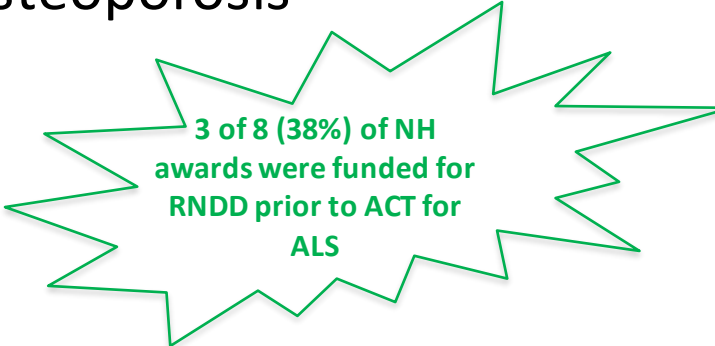
- 32 clinical trials totaling >\$27M for RNDDs
  - >\$4.5M of that was for ALS trials (6 grants)
- 3 natural history studies totaling >\$5.6M
- 2 approvals partially supported by Orphan Products Grants Program
  - Tafamidis for familial amyloid polyneuropathy
  - Iduronate-2-Sulfatase for MPS II

# OPD Natural History Grant Awards



## FY2017

1. Angelman Syndrome
2. Friedreich Ataxia
3. Pregnancy & Lactation Associated Osteoporosis
4. Sarcoidosis
5. Sickle Cell Anemia
6. Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1

A green starburst callout box containing text.

3 of 8 (38%) of NH awards were funded for RNDD prior to ACT for ALS

## FY2019

1. Medullary Thyroid Cancer
2. Cardiac Disease in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

# Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program



- **Established:** upon enactment of the [ACT for ALS in December 2021](#).
- **Purpose:** Grants and contracts to public and private entities to cover costs of research on, and development of interventions intended to prevent, diagnose, mitigate, treat, or cure ALS and other rare neurodegenerative diseases in adults and children, including costs incurred with respect to the development and **critical evaluation of tools, methods, and processes**
- To learn more about this program, see:  
[Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program | FDA](#)

# OPD Natural History Grant Awards



## FY2022

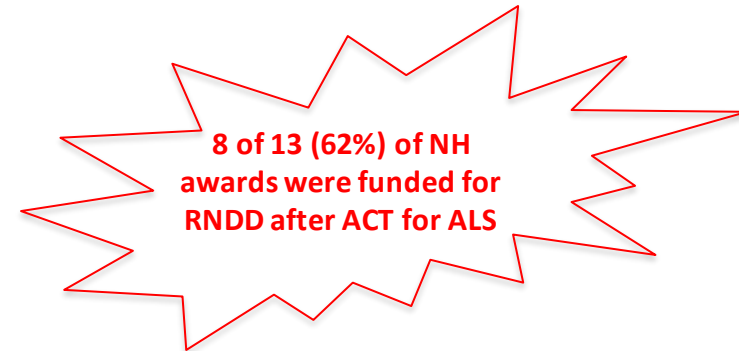
1. Autoimmune pulmonary alveolar proteinosis
2. Hypoparathyroidism
3. Ornithine aminotransferase (OAT) gene related ocular and systemic disease
4. Ataxia-telangiectasia
5. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
6. Castleman disease
7. Pulmonary arterial hypertension
8. Myotonic dystrophy type-1

## FY2023

1. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
2. Familial Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
3. Myotonic Dystrophy
4. Niemann-Pick Type C
5. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

## FY2024

COMING SOON!



# Rare Neurodegenerative Disease FY 22 Awards



## Grants:

Institution	PI	Title	Budget
University of Minnesota	David Walk	Retrospective and prospective study in <b>amyotrophic lateral sclerosis</b> of clinic-based multicenter data collection	\$1.6 million over four years
Johns Hopkins University	Howard Lederman	Prospective study in <b>ataxia-telangiectasia</b>	\$1.6 million over four years
Virginia Commonwealth University	Nicholas Johnson	Prospective study in <b>myotonic dystrophy type-1</b> to establish biomarkers and clinical endpoints	\$1.6 million over four years

## Contracts:

Institution	Title	Budget
RTI International	ALS Functional Ratings Scale-Revised Clinical Outcome Assessment Remote-Use Equivalency Study	~\$1.8 million over two years
RTI International	Landscape Analysis of Brain-Computer Interface Focused Patient Preference Studies in ALS Patients	~\$330,000 over one year

Intent to use \$2.5M FY22 increase -> Leveraged and collaborated to use \$5.8 M for these projects in FY22 with no effect on funding of other rare disease studies within Orphan Products Grants Program

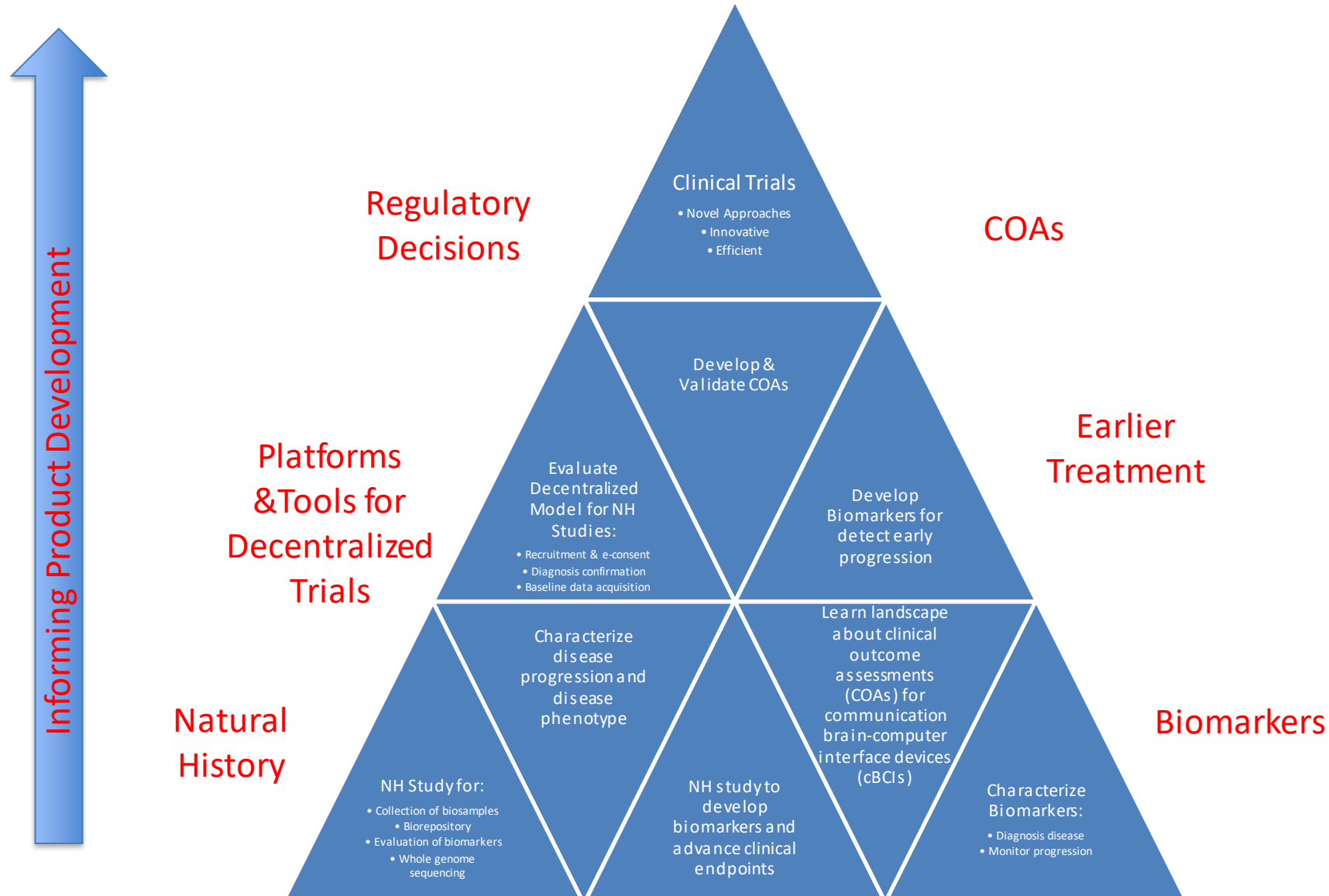
# Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program FY 23 Awards



Institution	PI	Title	Budget
Johns Hopkins University	Wong, Philip	Biomarker Study in <b>Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)</b> to develop a diagnostic test for prodromal phase of ALS	\$1.6 million over four years – FUNDING IN FULL
Massachusetts General Hospital	Wheeler, Thurman	Biomarker Study in <b>Myotonic Dystrophy</b> to Determine Extracellular RNA Biomarkers	\$1.6 million over four years
University Of Illinois At Chicago	Cologna, Stephanie	Biomarker Study in <b>Niemann-Pick Type C</b> to determine clinically relevant Biomarkers	\$1.6 million over four years
Massachusetts General Hospital	Sherman, Alexander	Prospective Natural History Study and Biomarker study in <b>Familial Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)</b> and ultra-rare MNDs to Create a disease-agnostic scalable platform for decentralized observational and validation of digital biomarkers	\$1.6 million over four years
University Of Minnesota	Pisharady, Pramod	Biomarker Study in <b>Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)</b> to Optimize and Validate Multimodal Longitudinal Imaging of Brain and Cervical cord as an ALS disease biomarker using microstructure statistics and morphometry	\$1.6 million over four years
Blackrock Microsystems	Melby, Shana	UH2/UH3 COAs for cBCI: Metrics for Brain Controlled Communication through a comprehensive review of clinical outcome assessments for communication brain computer interfaces in <b>amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)</b>	\$500,000 over two years
University Of Minnesota	Walk, David	Retrospective and Prospective Study in <b>Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)</b> of Clinic-based Multicenter Data Collection	\$5.8 million over four years
New York University School Of Medicine	Gonzalez-Duarte Briseno, Maria Alejandra	Phase 2 Study of Dexmedetomidine Sublingual Film for the Ambulatory Treatment of Hyperadrenergic Autonomic Crisis in Patients with <b>Familial Dysautonomia</b>	\$2.6 million over four years- Co-funded with OGP

FY 2023 awards announced in [FDA Roundup](#)

# Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program Awards - Impact





# FY24 Planning for Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grants Program



- Used concept ideas obtained from stakeholders to establish a new FY 24 RFA to address unmet needs for rare neurodegenerative diseases



# OOPD RNDD Funding Opportunities For FY24



- [Natural History and Biomarker Studies of Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases \(U01\)](#)
  - **Receipt Dates: May 6, 2024**
  - **FOA Number: RFA-FD-24-024**

[Funding opportunities for rare disease research | FDA](#)



# RFA-FD-24-024: Natural History and Biomarker Studies for RNDD



## The basics:

### ➤ Purpose:

- To support efficient natural history studies alone or in conjunction with the development and validation of clinical outcome assessments (COAs) and/or biomarker studies to address the unmet needs in rare neurodegenerative diseases for children and adults

### ➤ Eligibility:

- Foreign or domestic, public or private, for-profit or nonprofit entities (state and local units of government) are eligible; Federal agencies may not apply
- The **neurodegenerative diseases** proposed to be studied meet the definition of a **rare** disease (prevalence of fewer than 200,000 persons in the US)

### ➤ Budget:

- Not limited but time is limited to 4 years

### ➤ Awards:

- Number of awards is contingent upon FDA appropriations and submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications
- Expect to fund up to 3 awards
- Funding dependent on **quality of application** and **availability of Federal funds**

# Conclusions

- OOPD has been very successful in contributing to:
  - product approvals
  - publications
  - regulatory decisions
  - standard of care changes
  - rare neurodegenerative disease product development
- High need for quality clinical trials and natural history studies for rare diseases
- OOPD continues to make changes to the grants program to increase its impact and continue to meet the Orphan Products Grants and RNDD Grants Programs missions
- Large need remains for funding in rare disease space – work together to bring products to rare disease patients!



# OOPD Funding Opportunities



- [Clinical Studies of Orphan Products Addressing Unmet Needs of Rare Diseases \(R01\)](#)
  - Receipt Dates: **October 22, 2024**
  - Resubmission Only Receipt Dates: [June 4, 2024](#); [June 3, 2025](#)
  - FOA Number: **RFA-FD-23-001**
  
- [Natural History and Biomarker Studies of Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases \(U01\)](#)
  - Receipt Dates: [May 6, 2024](#)
  - FOA Number: **RFA-FD-24-024**

[Funding opportunities for rare disease research | FDA](#)



# OOPD Contact Information

For more information on OOPD programs go to:

[www.fda.gov/orphan](http://www.fda.gov/orphan)

Still have questions?

Email us at [orphan@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:orphan@fda.hhs.gov)

Email: [katherine.needleman@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:katherine.needleman@fda.hhs.gov)

Call us at 301-796-8660



# Critical Path for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases (CP-RND) Efforts and Vision

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**Collin Hovinga, PharmD, MS, FCCP**

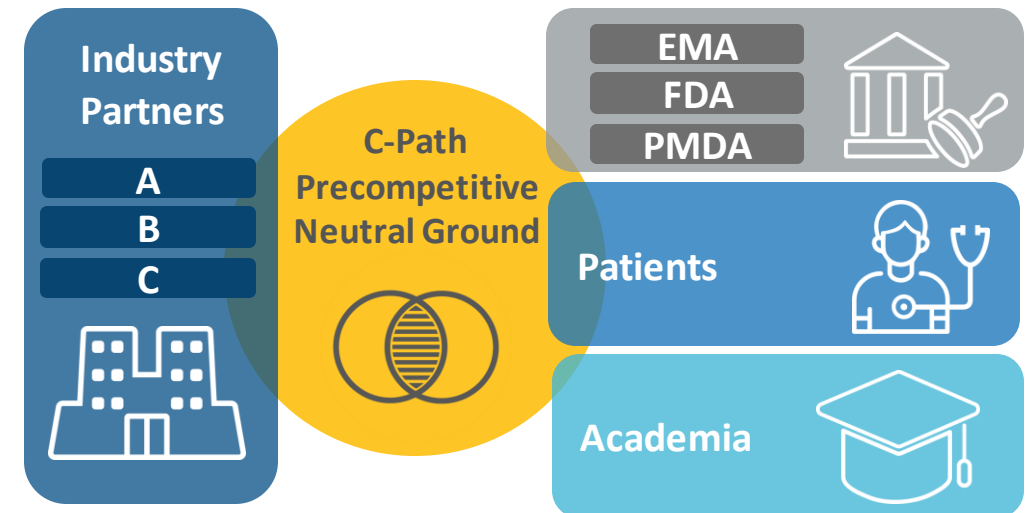
*Critical Path Institute (C-Path)*  
Vice President, Rare and Orphan Disease Programs



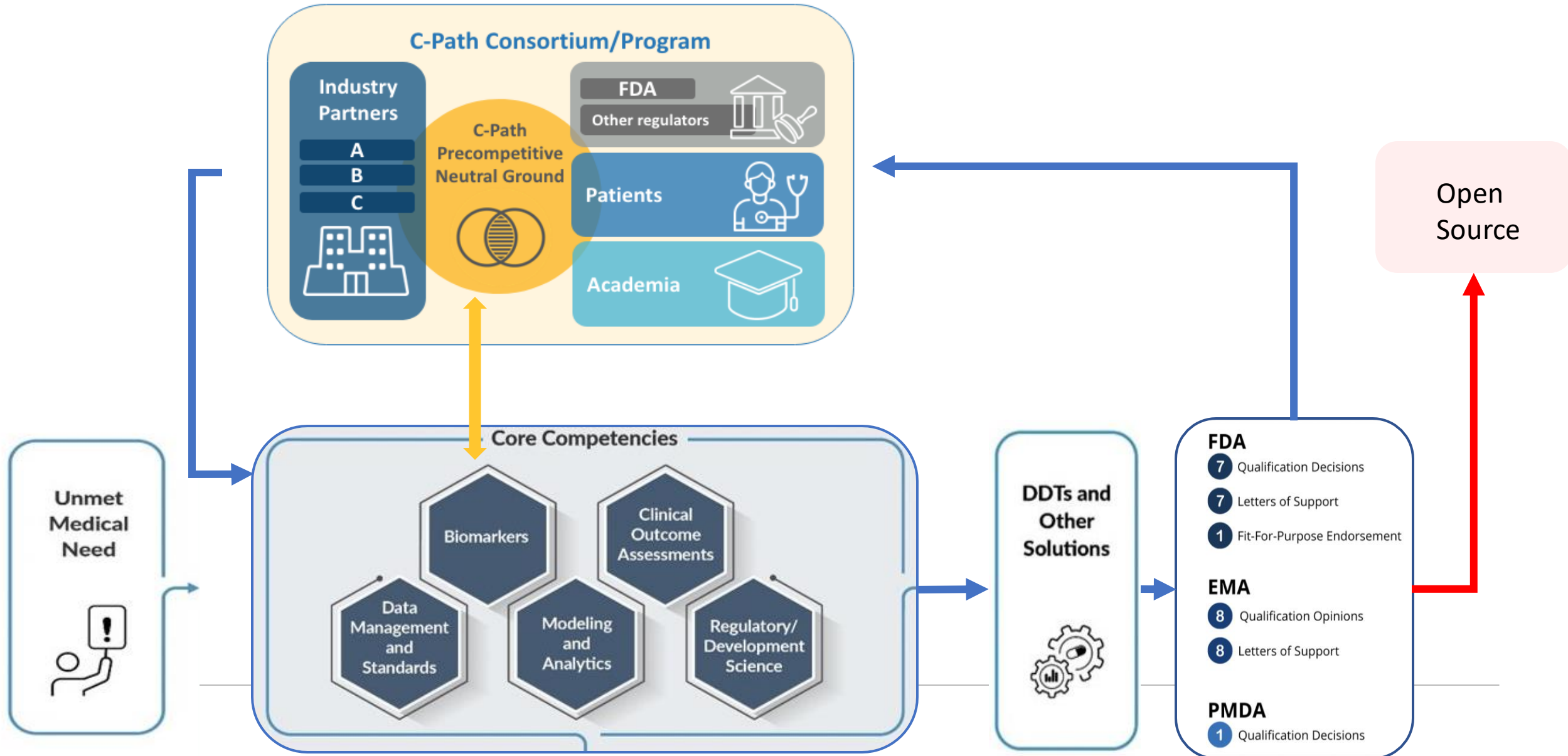


# C-Path's Public-Private Partnership Model

- Foster development of new evaluation tools to inform medical product development and regulatory decision-making
- Convene scientific consortia of industry, academia, and government for sharing of data/expertise
  - ✓ The best science
  - ✓ The broadest experience
  - ✓ Active consensus building
- Enable iterative EMA/FDA/PMDA participation in developing new methods to assess the safety and efficacy of medical products
- Obtain official regulatory endorsement of novel methodologies and drug development tools to address unmet needs



# Creating Solutions to Address Unmet Needs in Drug Development



# Critical Path for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases (CP-RND)



Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (ACT for ALS):

C-Path selected to establish a PPP involving FDA/NIH, persons with lived experience/advocates, researchers and industry aimed at advancing research in ***ALS and other rare neurodegenerative diseases.***

- ✓ Ataxias- CPTA
- ✓ Huntington's Disease-HD-RSC
- ✓ Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- ✓ Others being developed through Task Forces

Consistent input from persons with lived experience, caregivers and the advocacy community is *critical for the success.*

Key advantages comes from the opportunity for *shared learnings* among RNDs and among stakeholder communities

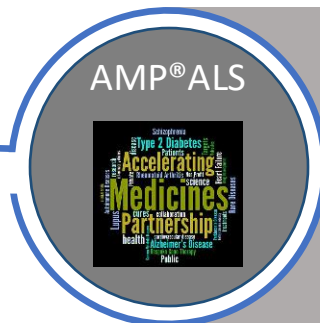
# Programs under Section 3 of the ACT for ALS

## Critical Path for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases (CP-RND)



- Accelerate efficiencies in RND drug development through creation of tool (DDTs).
- Focus on RWD/RWE-clinical data, biomarkers, DHTs, COAs, clinical trial simulation and regulatory science/endorsement to bridge scientific discoveries to implementable solutions

**Public Law 117.79**  
*Accelerating  
Access to Critical  
Therapies for ALS  
Act (ACT for ALS)  
Section 3*



## Accelerated Medicines Partnership® in ALS

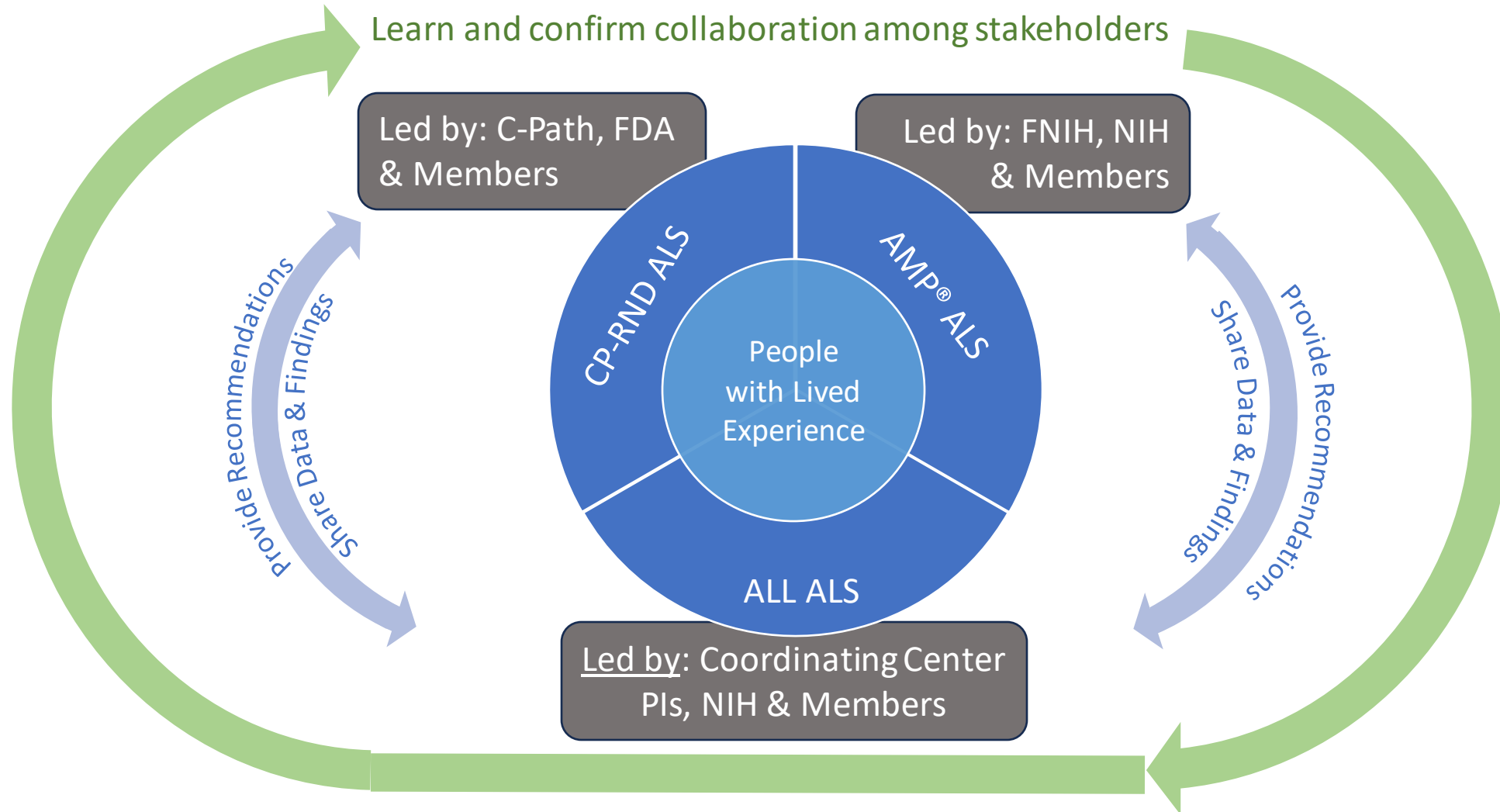
- Molecular analyses of ALS biospecimens and clinical research to develop validated ALS biomarkers for early diagnosis & treatment assessment, and to discover new therapeutic targets and risk factors for ALS



## Access for ALL in ALS Clinical Research Consortium

- Clinical research infrastructure to support the collection of COAs/PROs and longitudinal biospecimens from people living with ALS, at genetic risk for ALS, and controls

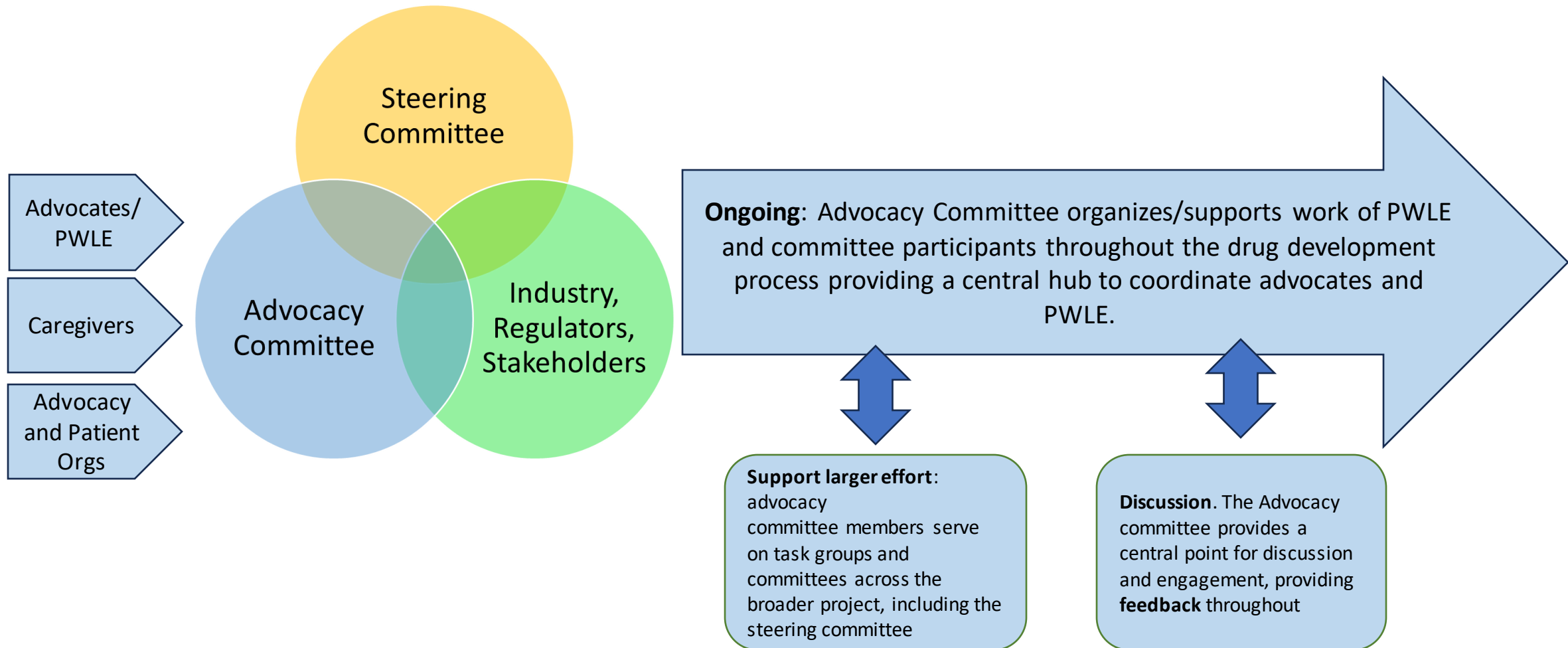
# ACT for ALS Collaborations



# Foundation for the Future: CP-RND Completed Pre-consortium ALS Efforts

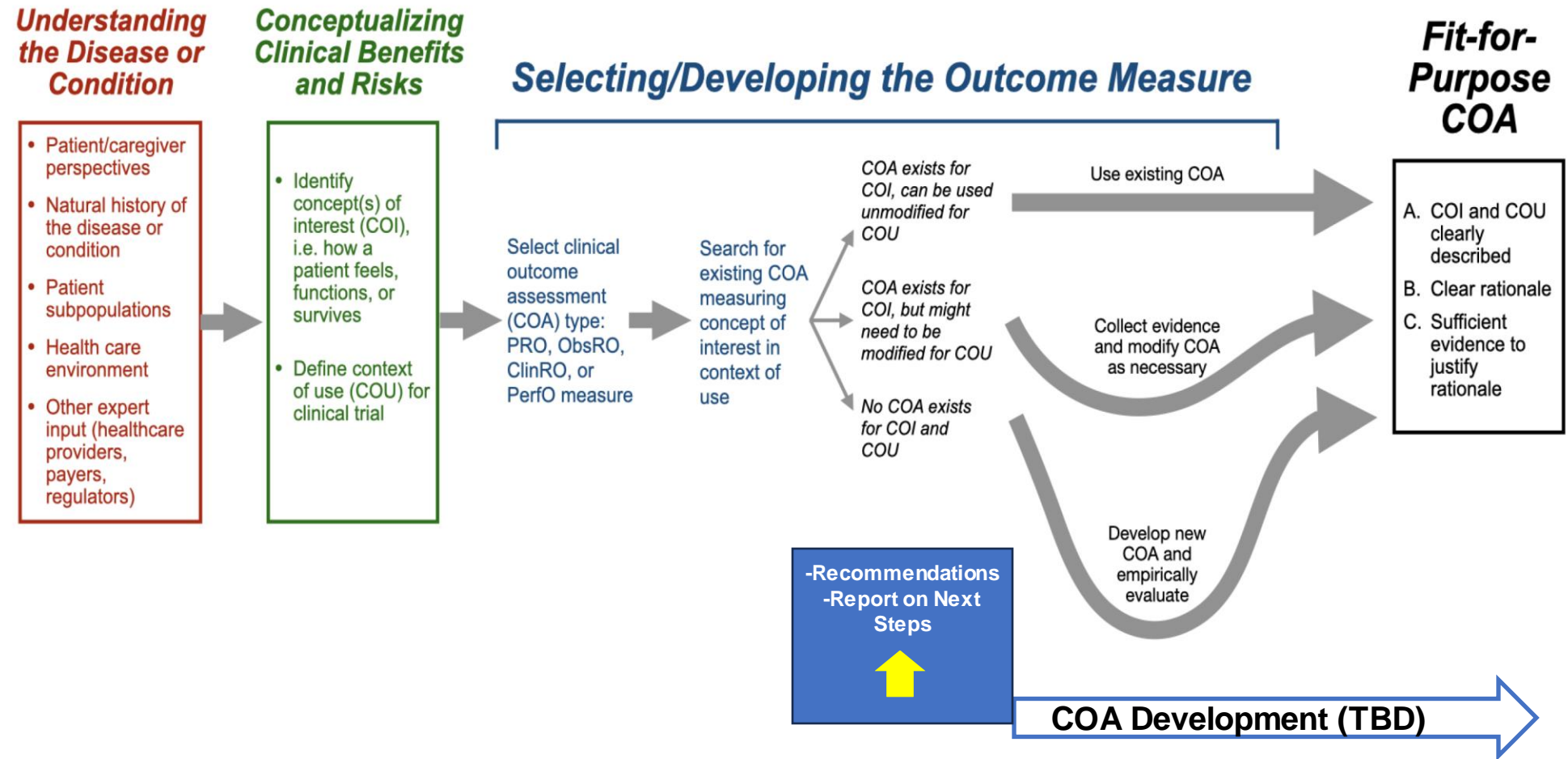
PFDD process	Data Landscape	Biomarkers	COAs	Modeling	Digital Health Technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Active and ongoing engagement with people with lived experience and their advocacy organizations.</li><li>• Coordinating with AMP efforts, reducing burden</li><li>• Formation of a PWLE group to give/get feedback on ALS related projects/WGs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70+ larger databases reviewed; priority listing created and shared with AMP®ALS WG</li><li>• Summarized results of clinicaltrials.gov search of &gt;700 studies</li><li>• Data dictionary collection and data share agreements for priority data sets underway</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed efforts to-date and spoke with KOLs regarding NfL/TDP43 and other potential biomarkers for use in ALS clinical trials</li><li>• Conducted survey of biospecimens available for researchers, summary shared with AMP® ALS WG</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussed challenges and gaps in current COAs with KOLs</li><li>• Initiated early efforts to evaluate to examine important concepts for PWLE and COAs following FDAs Roadmap for Patient-Focused Outcome Measures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing models were reviewed and discussed with KOLs, including models for survival, longitudinal, stratification/staging , severity metrics from DHTs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscaping efforts on DHT for ALS based on high priority concepts (literature review)</li><li>• Interviews with programs performing DHT ALS research and applicability for specific COU</li><li>• Identified data sets for curation in the data warehouse.</li></ul>

# Model for PFDD in CP-RND



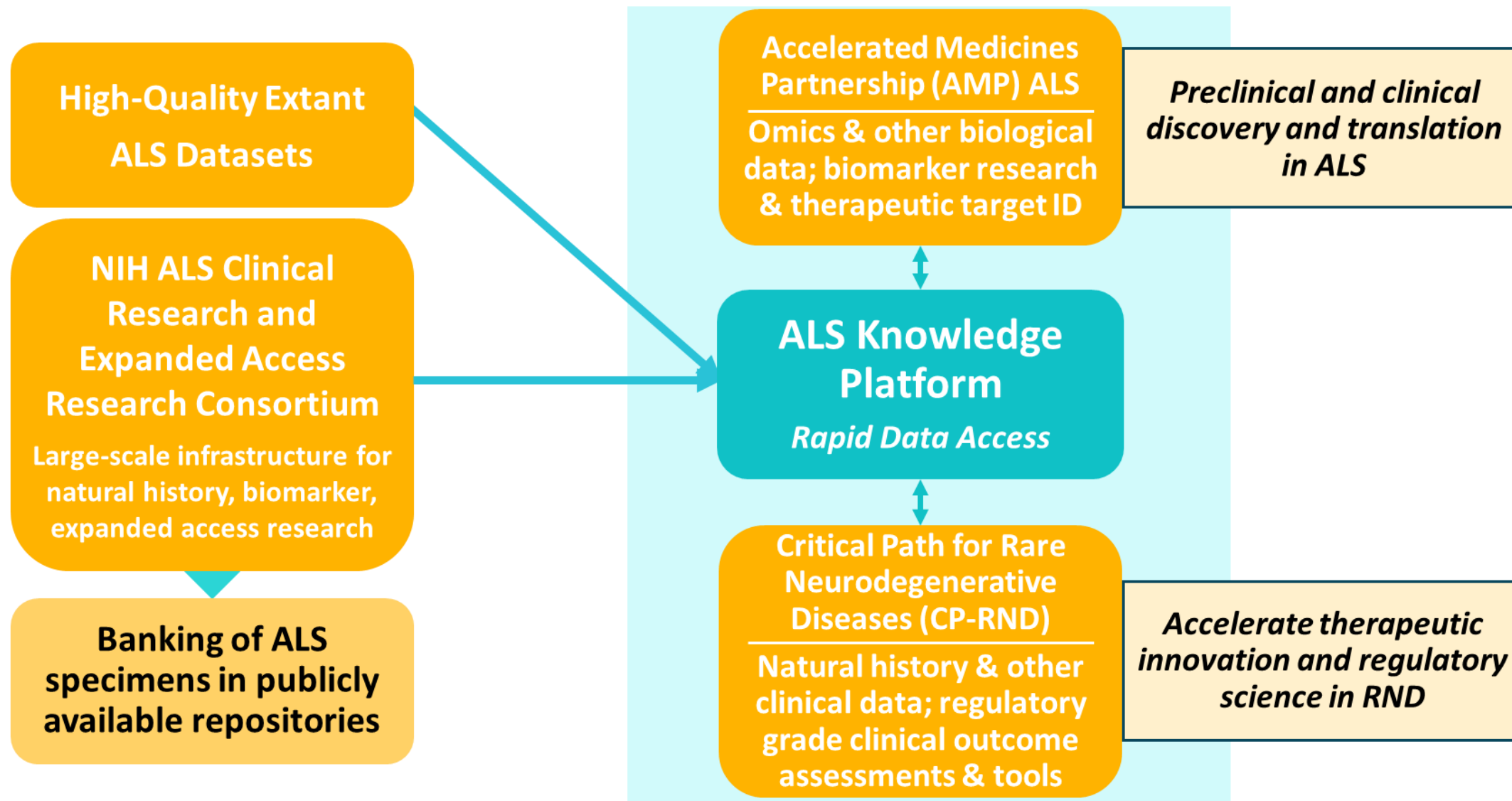
# Advancing CoAs focusing on Meaningful Outcomes for People Living with ALS

**• How do we get to a well-developed COA meaningful to PWLE?**

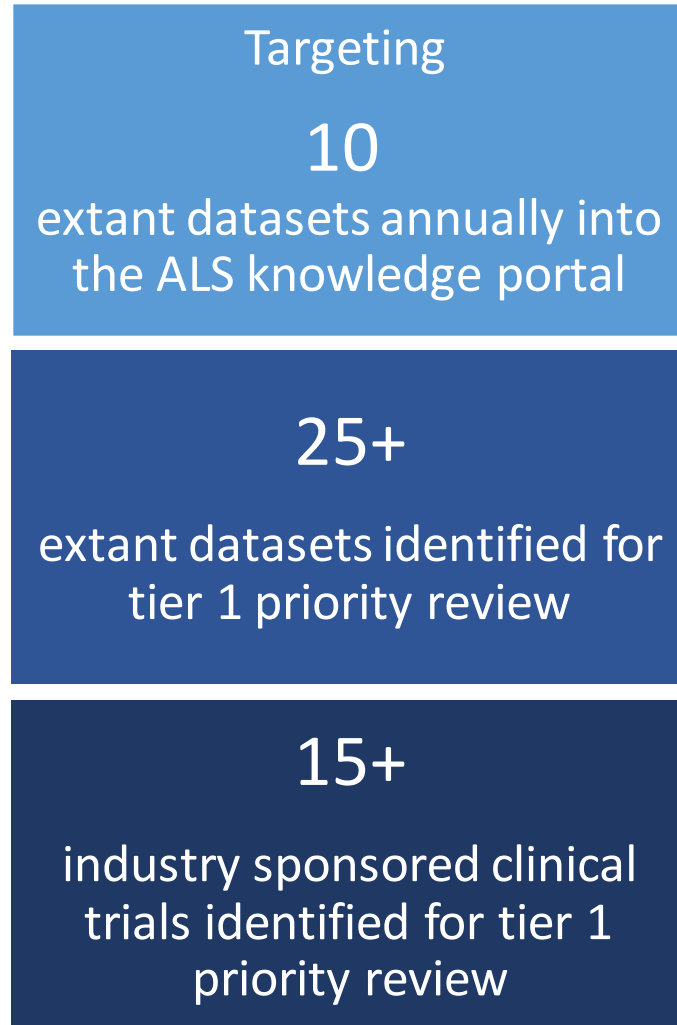




# ALS Knowledge Platform: CP-RND/RDCA-DAP + AMP-ALS



# CP-RND Program Updates: Data Collaboration Agreements (DCAs)

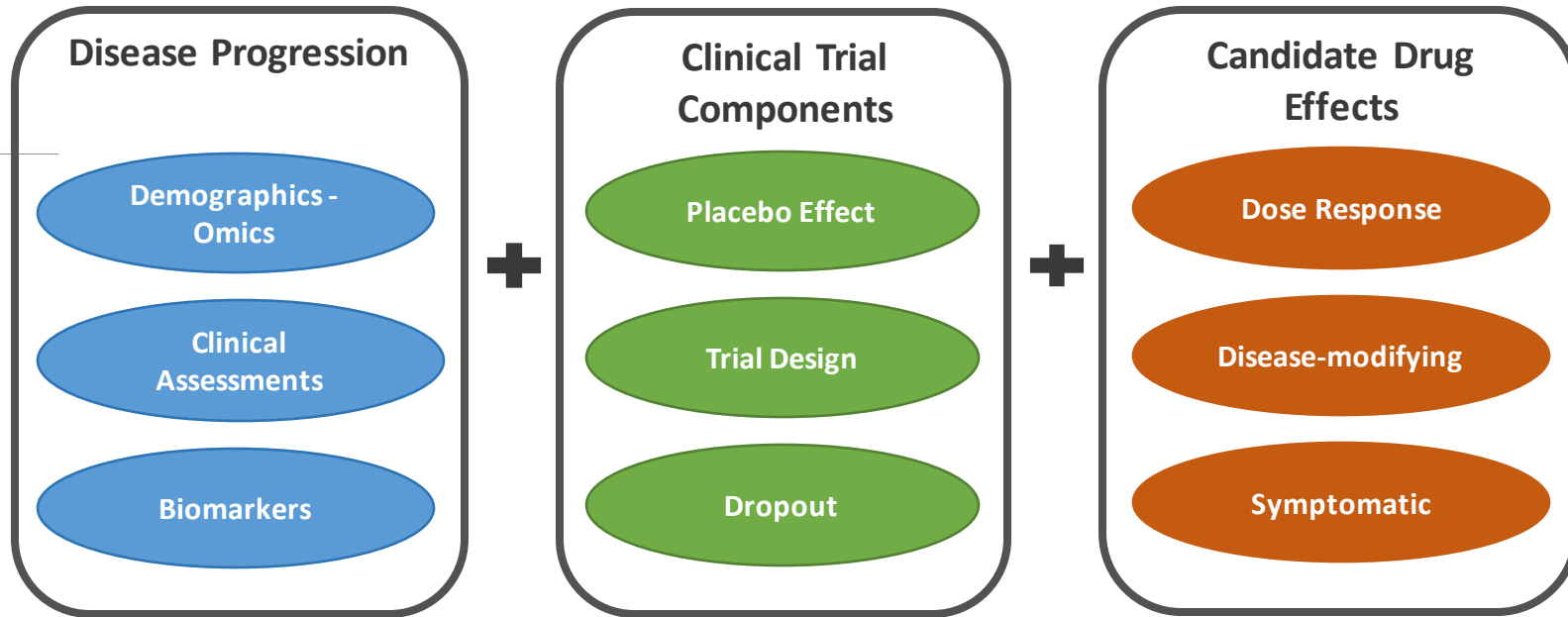
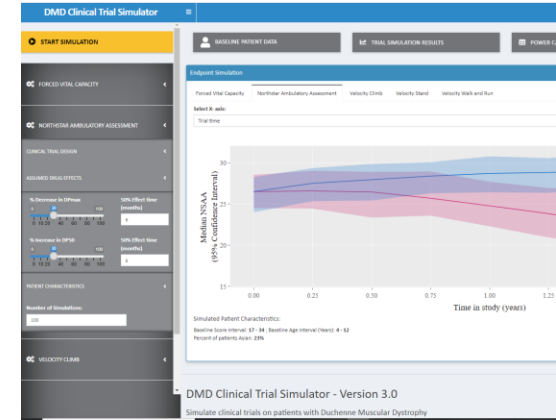
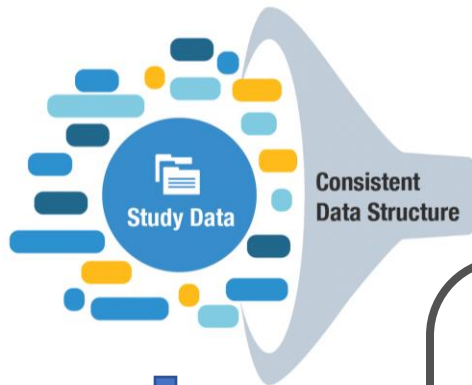


# Actionable Solutions for Rare Diseases Drug Development

## Toward Clinical Trial Simulation Tools

**Input:** Clinical trial data,  
Observational study data

**Output:** CTS Tool



# Example: Clinical Trial Simulation Tool- Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

**Trial design parameters:**

- Study duration
- Assessment frequency

**Baseline Patient features:**

- FVC
- Age
- Race
- del 3-7/skip-44 mutation

**Assumed drug effects:**

- % changes to model parameters to mimic drug effects
- Adjustable times to effect

**DMD Clinical Trial Simulator - Version 1.0**  
Simulate clinical trials on patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Individual subject | Multiple subjects

**Clinical Trial Design**

Total Number of Subjects:

Duration of Subjects Follow-up (Years):

Assessment Interval (Months):

**Patient Characteristics**

Baseline Score Interval:

Baseline Age Interval (Years):

% of Asian in the population:

% of patients with mutation del 3-7/skip-44:

**Assumed Drug Effects**

% Increase in G <sub>max</sub> : <input type="range" value="0-100"/>	Estimated 50% Effect time (months): <input type="text" value="6"/>
% Increase in G: <input type="range" value="0-100"/>	50% Effect time (months): <input type="text" value="6"/>
% Decrease in DP <sub>max</sub> : <input type="range" value="0-100"/>	50% Effect time (months): <input type="text" value="6"/>
% Increase in DP <sub>50</sub> : <input type="range" value="0-100"/>	50% Effect time (months): <input type="text" value="6"/>

Number of Simulations:

**Forced Vital Capacity (FVC)**

Select X-axis:

Contact us:  
Developed by Karthik Lingineni, Juan Francisco Morales & Sarah Kim on behalf of the C-Path's D-RSC. E-mail sarahkim@cop.ufl.edu with questions or comments.

**Plotting window by user chosen time metric:**

- Plots by age groups
- Plots by time in study
- Provides mouse-over quantitative values

**Number of trials to simulate**

**Simulation output export feature:**

- Export virtual patient data
- Export plots
- Export power estimates

*A Model-based Clinical Trial Simulation Tool to Optimize Clinical Trial Design of Studies to Investigate Efficacy of Potential Therapies for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Briefing Document submitted to the FDA's Fit-for-Purpose Initiative Consultation and Advice pathway. Revisions submitted to FDA/EMA*

# Biomarkers and Digital Health Technologies (DHTs)

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- Survey performed to identify biospecimens that might be available for biomarker work done under FNIH/AMP-ALS
- Active review and intake of extant data to assess the suitability of a regulatory submission under specific context of use for key fluid biomarkers and DHTs
- Early focus is on DHTs addressing accelerometry and speech
- Gaps in existing data will be provided to AMP-ALS/NIH and FDA for further support



Advancing Drug Development.  
Improving Lives. Together.

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[c-path.org](http://c-path.org)



# Huntington's Disease/Ataxias Efforts

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**Terina Martinez, PhD**

*Critical Path Institute*

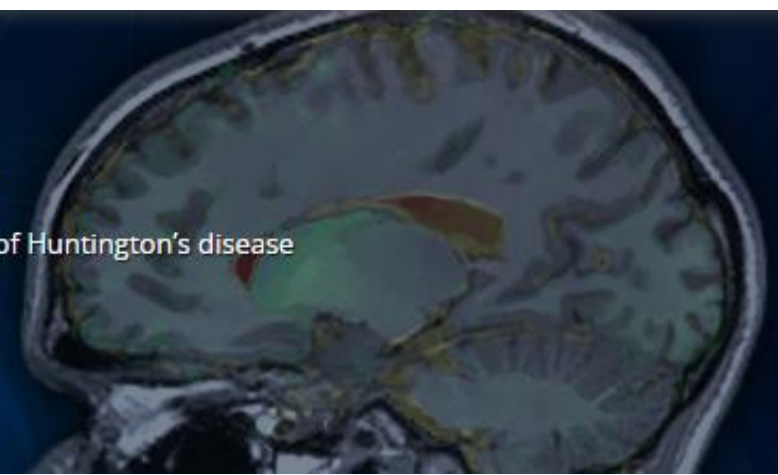
Executive Director, CP-RND





## Huntington's Disease Regulatory Science Consortium

HD-RSC, founded in 2018, leads collaborations that accelerate advancement of Huntington's disease (HD) therapies to improve the lives of all affected.



The overall goal of the Huntington's Disease Regulatory Science Consortium (HD-RSC) is to **create a regulatory science strategy for HD** that helps de-risk drug development. **HD-RSC provides a neutral forum and collaborative framework to bring together the essential participants from the HD community** to aggregate data, identify solutions, and develop regulatory-grade tools.



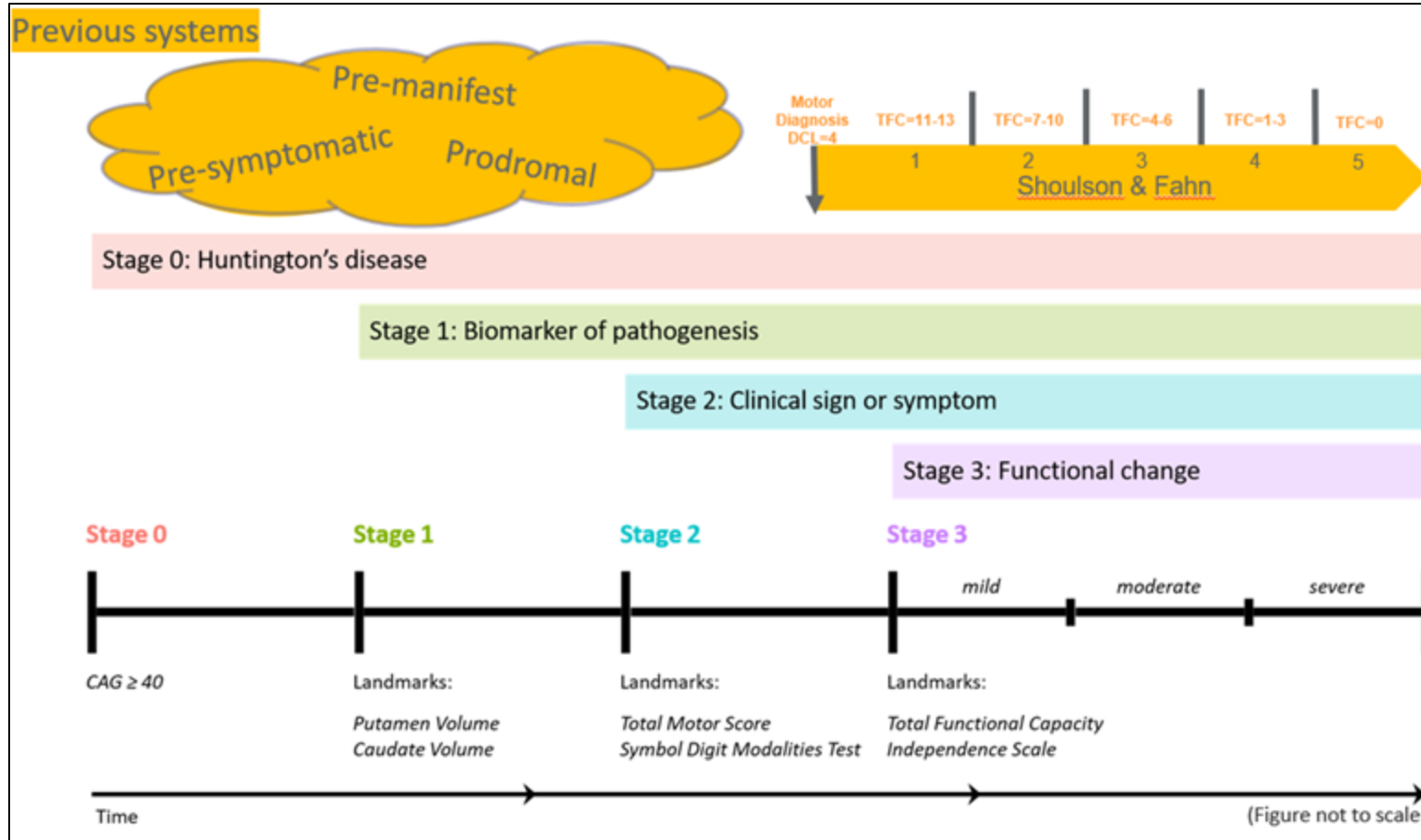
HD-RSC has embarked on the **next stage of its evolution** by focusing our research plan on **optimizing drug development tools for earlier stages of the disease continuum**.



Leveraging the **Huntington's Disease Integrated Staging System (HD-ISS)** as a foundation, HD-RSC incorporates the voice of individuals with lived experience and utilizes data modelling/analytics, the characterization of actionable clinical biomarkers, clinical outcome assessments, and digital health technologies to develop tools with regulatory rigor and clinical meaningfulness to capture what matters most to people living with HD, their families, and caregivers.



# The HD-ISS as a conceptual framework for HD-RSC working groups: incorporating genetic, biomarker, clinical and functional endpoints



- The HD-ISS is a biology-based, data-driven framework derived from extensive published evidence
- Clinical trial enrichment using stage landmarks may help to identify pwHD closer and/or farther from stage transitions
- Slowing progression across any Stage boundary could lead to long-term decreases in morbidity and mortality

# Impact Potential for HD-RSC Tools & Solutions

## Drug Development Tool Solution

HD Integrated Staging  
System

Clinical Trial Simulation  
Tool

Neuroimaging and Fluid  
Biomarkers

Novel outcome  
measures / endpoints

## Impact

Clinical trial enrichment, enable  
prevention trials

Optimize clinical trial design

Improve ability to detect onset;  
sensitively measure progression

Improve ability to detect onset and  
changes in meaningful symptoms

# Recent Publications & Regulatory Submissions

Review > Lancet Neurol. 2022 Jul;21(7):632-644. doi: 10.1016/S1474-4422(22)00120-X.

## A biological classification of Huntington's disease: the Integrated Staging System

Sarah J Tabrizi<sup>1</sup>, Scott Schobel<sup>2</sup>, Emily C Gantman<sup>3</sup>, Alexandra Mansbach<sup>4</sup>, Beth Borowsky<sup>5</sup>, Pavlina Konstantinova<sup>6</sup>, Tiago A Mestre<sup>7</sup>, Jennifer Panagoulas<sup>8</sup>, Christopher A Ross<sup>9</sup>, Maurice Zauderer<sup>10</sup>, Ariana P Mullin<sup>8</sup>, Klaus Romero<sup>11</sup>, Sudhir Sivakumaran<sup>11</sup>, Emily C Turner<sup>11</sup>, Jeffrey D Long<sup>12</sup>, Cristina Sampaio<sup>13</sup>;  
Huntington's Disease Regulatory Science Consortium (HD-RSC)

Review > Front Neurol. 2021 Oct 22:12:712565. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2021.712565.

eCollection 2021.

## Recommendations to Optimize the Use of Volumetric MRI in Huntington's Disease Clinical Trials

Kirsi M Kinnunen<sup>1</sup>, Ariana P Mullin<sup>2,3</sup>, Dorian Pustina<sup>4</sup>, Emily C Turner<sup>2</sup>, Jackson Burton<sup>2</sup>, Mark F Gordon<sup>5</sup>, Rachael I Scahill<sup>6</sup>, Emily C Gantman<sup>4</sup>, Simon Noble<sup>4</sup>, Klaus Romero<sup>2</sup>, Nellie Georgiou-Karistianis<sup>7</sup>, Adam J Schwarz<sup>8</sup>

Review > Front Neurol. 2021 Sep 21:12:712555. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2021.712555.

eCollection 2021.

## Volumetric MRI-Based Biomarkers in Huntington's Disease: An Evidentiary Review

Kirsi M Kinnunen<sup>1</sup>, Adam J Schwarz<sup>2</sup>, Emily C Turner<sup>3</sup>, Dorian Pustina<sup>4</sup>, Emily C Gantman<sup>4</sup>, Mark F Gordon<sup>5</sup>, Richard Joules<sup>1</sup>, Ariana P Mullin<sup>3,6</sup>, Rachael I Scahill<sup>7</sup>, Nellie Georgiou-Karistianis<sup>8</sup>; Huntington's Disease Regulatory Science Consortium (HD-RSC)

## HD Clinical Trial Simulation Tool Submitted to EMA and FDA





## Critical Path to Therapeutics for the Ataxias (CPTA)

Founded in 2021, CPTA is a consortium focused on accelerating therapeutic development for spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA).



The overall goal of the Critical Path to Therapeutics for the Ataxias (CPTA) is to be a **neutral convener for the ataxia community** to collaboratively aggregate and analyze data, identify solutions, and develop regulatory-grade tools, to **accelerate development of novel therapeutics for rare inherited ataxias**.



To inform and enable implementation of its Research Strategy, **CPTA has built an Aggregated Ataxia Database** hosted on C-Path's Rare Disease Cures Accelerator – Data and Analytics Platform (RDCA-DAP); representing >1,600 patients and spanning 7 SCA types, **it is the largest publicly accessible SCA database**.

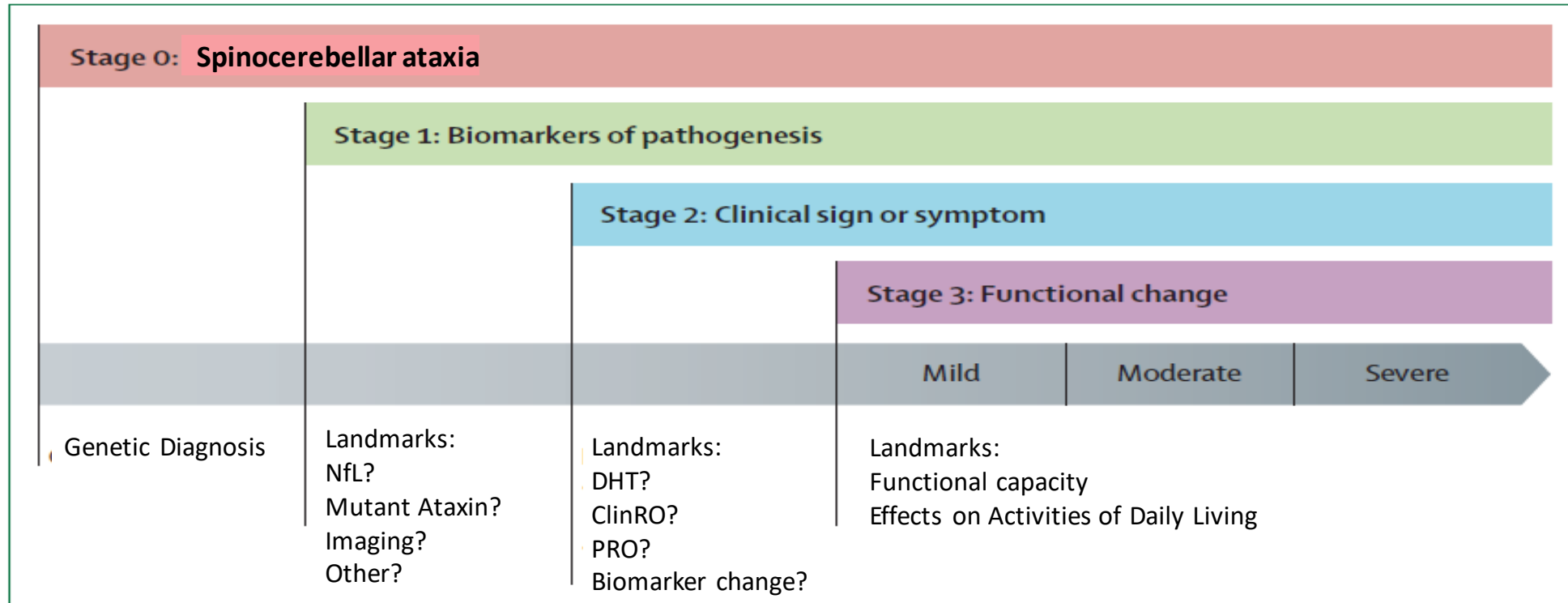


**Leveraging its database as a foundation**, CPTA endeavors to optimize clinical endpoints and develop a biology-driven integrated staging system for the SCAs that **captures clinical relevance/meaningfulness and what matters most to people living with SCA, their families, and caregivers**.

# Considerations for Ataxia Disease Staging

What concept of interest is optimal for each disease stage?

What is/are the best outcome measure(s) for each stage?



Modified from Ref.: Sarah J. Tabrizi...HD-RSC et al., *Lancet Neurol.* July 2022 PMID: 35716693

**Abbreviations:**

NfL = neurofilament light chain  
 DHT = digital health technology  
 ClinRO = clinician reported outcome  
 PRO = patient reported outcome

# Impact Potential for CPTA Tools & Solutions

## Drug Development Tool Solution

## Impact

SCA Integrated Staging System

Clinical trial enrichment, enable prevention trials

Integrated Ataxia Database

Inform research plan and regulatory decision making

Novel outcome measures / endpoints

Improve ability to detect onset and changes in meaningful symptoms



Advancing Drug Development.  
Improving Lives. Together.

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[c-path.org](http://c-path.org)



# CP-RND Next Steps and How to Get Involved

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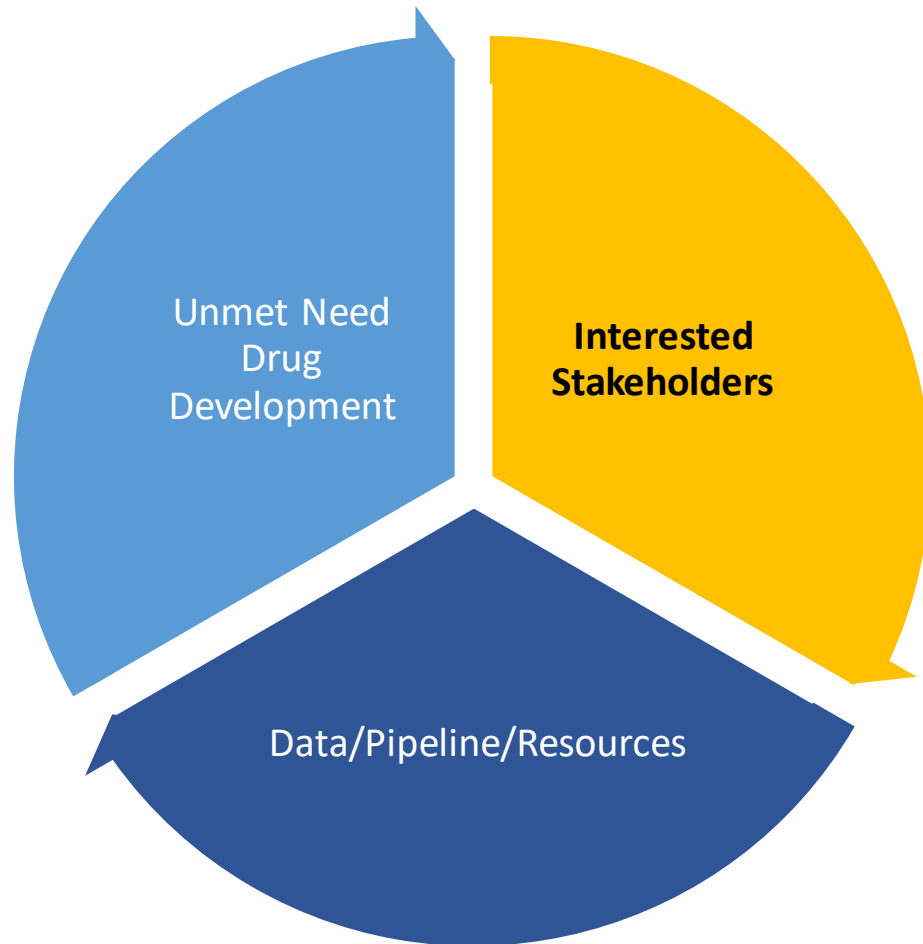


**Collin Hovinga, PharmD, MS, FCCP**

*Critical Path Institute (C-Path)*  
Vice President, Rare and Orphan Disease Programs



# Other Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases



Progressive subnuclear palsy (PSP)- trial simulation tool

Frontotemporal dementia (FTD)-ongoing discussions regarding biomarkers and data

Developmental epileptic encephalopathies (DEE)- non-seizure endpoints and data standards

Spastic paraplegia (HSP, PLS)-early conversations underway to identify unmet needs and action steps

# Get in touch with us!

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Rare and Orphan Disease Program  
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Advancing Drug Development.  
Improving Lives. Together.

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[c-path.org](http://c-path.org)



# NINDS: Translational Efforts to Advance Therapies for RNDs

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**Amir Tamiz, PhD**

*National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
(NINDS)*

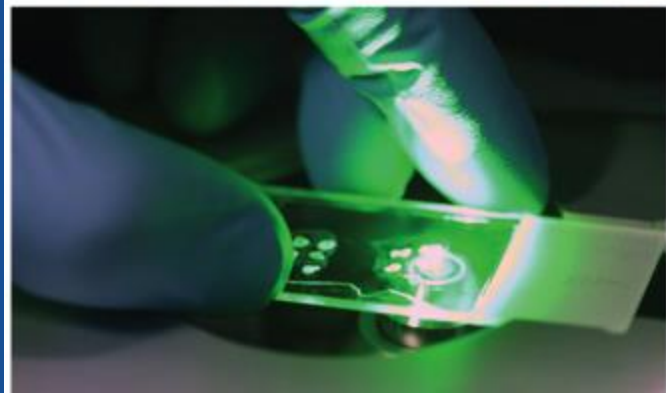
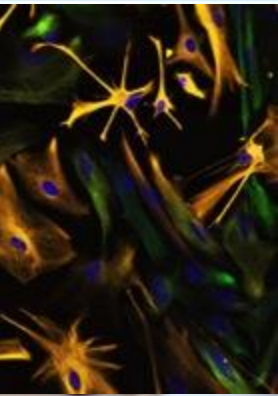
Director, Division of Translational Research



National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders  
and Stroke

# *NINDS Translational Efforts to Advance Therapies for RNDs*

**Amir Tamiz, PhD**  
Associate Director,  
NINDS



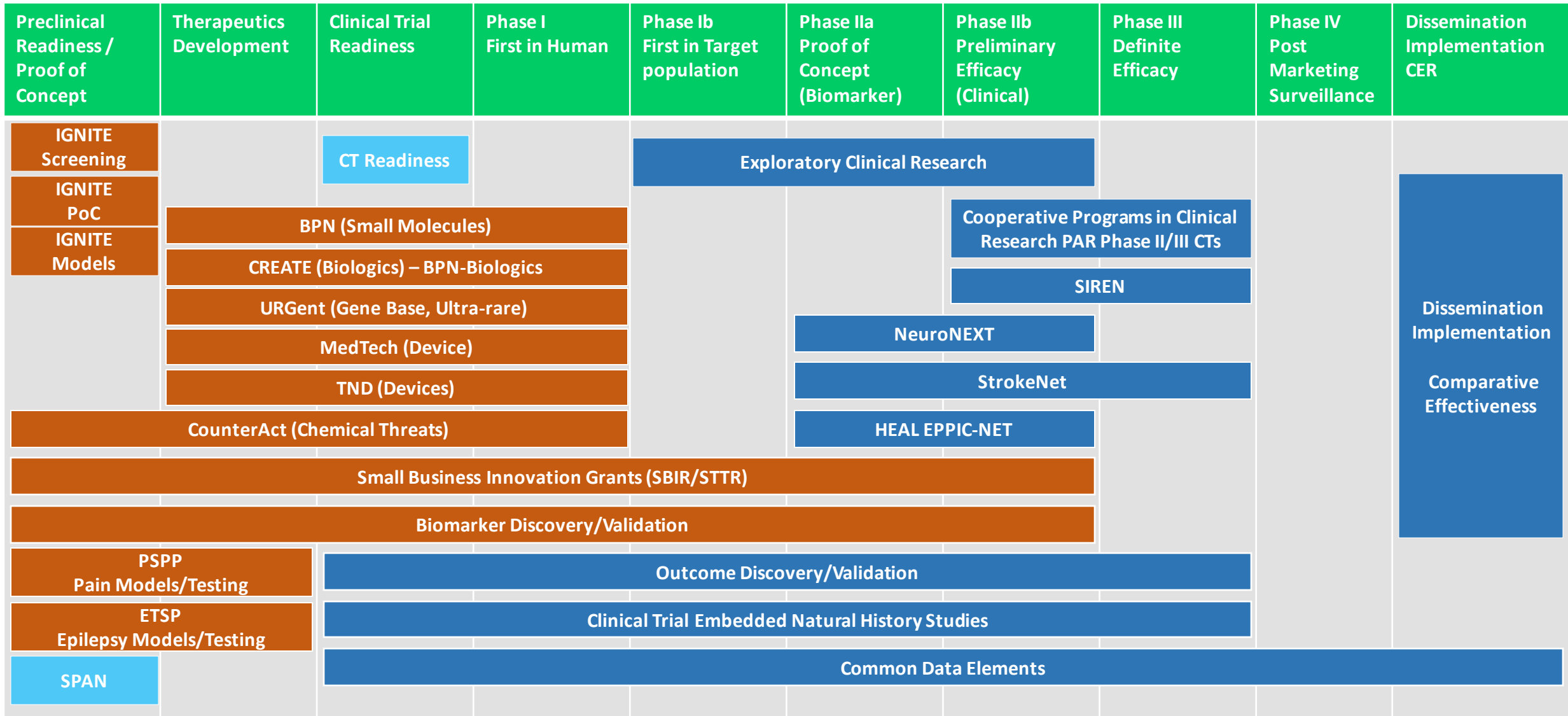
# Mission of NINDS

*The mission of NINDS is to seek **fundamental knowledge** about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to **reduce the burden of neurological disease***

- ✓ Support and perform basic, translational, and clinical neuroscience research
- ✓ Fund and conduct research training and career development programs and ensure a vibrant, talented, and diverse work force
- ✓ Promotes the timely dissemination of scientific discoveries and their implications for neurological health to the public



# NINDS Programs Across the Translational and Clinical Spectrum



## *The Right Care for the Right Patients at the Right Time*

1. Measure
  - Support discovery and development of biomarkers
2. Intervene
  - Support therapy development
  - Pursue early interventions and rare diseases
  - Consider ethical consequences
3. Validate
  - Implement clinical measures in preclinical design
  - Support first in human trials
  - Support advanced strategies to evaluate efficacy of interventions

NINDS Strategic Plan emphasizes significant increase in our engagement with PWLE





# NINDS Translational Biomarker Program



*Facilitate fit-for-purpose validation of biomarkers ready for use in clinical trials, to accelerate therapeutic development, and improve patient care.*

- ✓ Launched in 2018
- ✓ Supports neurological and NINDS neuromuscular disorders
- ✓ Supports validation studies for specific context of use
- ✓ Over 30 awarded projects

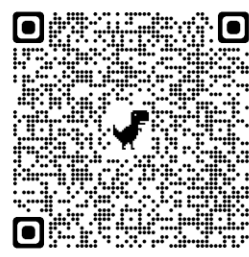


Program	Grant Mechanism	Entry Criteria	Scope	
Discovery/Development <a href="#">PAR-22-089</a>	R61/R33 Up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological rational</li> <li>• Context of use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detection method</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial proof of concept</li> </ul>
Analytical Validation: <a href="#">PAR-24-095</a> <a href="#">PAR-24-098</a>	U01/U44 Up to 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detection method</li> <li>• Proof of concept</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimize measurement</li> <li>• Study site variability</li> <li>• Outcome variability</li> </ul>	
Clinical Validation: <a href="#">PAR-24-097</a> <a href="#">PAR-24-096</a>	U01/U44 Up to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi site analytical validation in hand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specify context of use</li> <li>• Large multisite prospective studies</li> </ul>	

# Clinical Trial Readiness Program

- Funding for prospective, longitudinal, observational, multi-site clinical studies aimed at clinical outcome assessment (COA) and biomarker validation for upcoming clinical trials
- Only for rare diseases that will have candidate therapeutics ready to test in clinical trial(s) in the near future (PAR-22-184, 5-7 years)
- Requires preliminary data on COA and analytical validation of candidate biomarkers
- Two application receipt dates per year through Feb 2025
- Support for up to 5 years, up to \$750,000/yr direct cost

# Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts



*Advance projects to the point where they can move into preclinical development*

**PAR-21-124:** Assay Development and Therapeutic Agent Identification

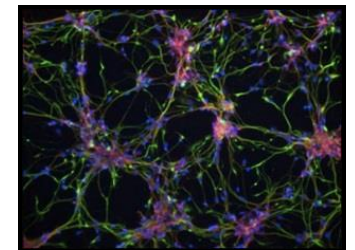
**PAR-21-123:** Development and Validation of Model Systems to Facilitate Neurotherapeutic Discovery

**PAR-21-122:** Neurotherapeutic Agent Characterization and In vivo Efficacy Studies



*Timeline: 3 years*

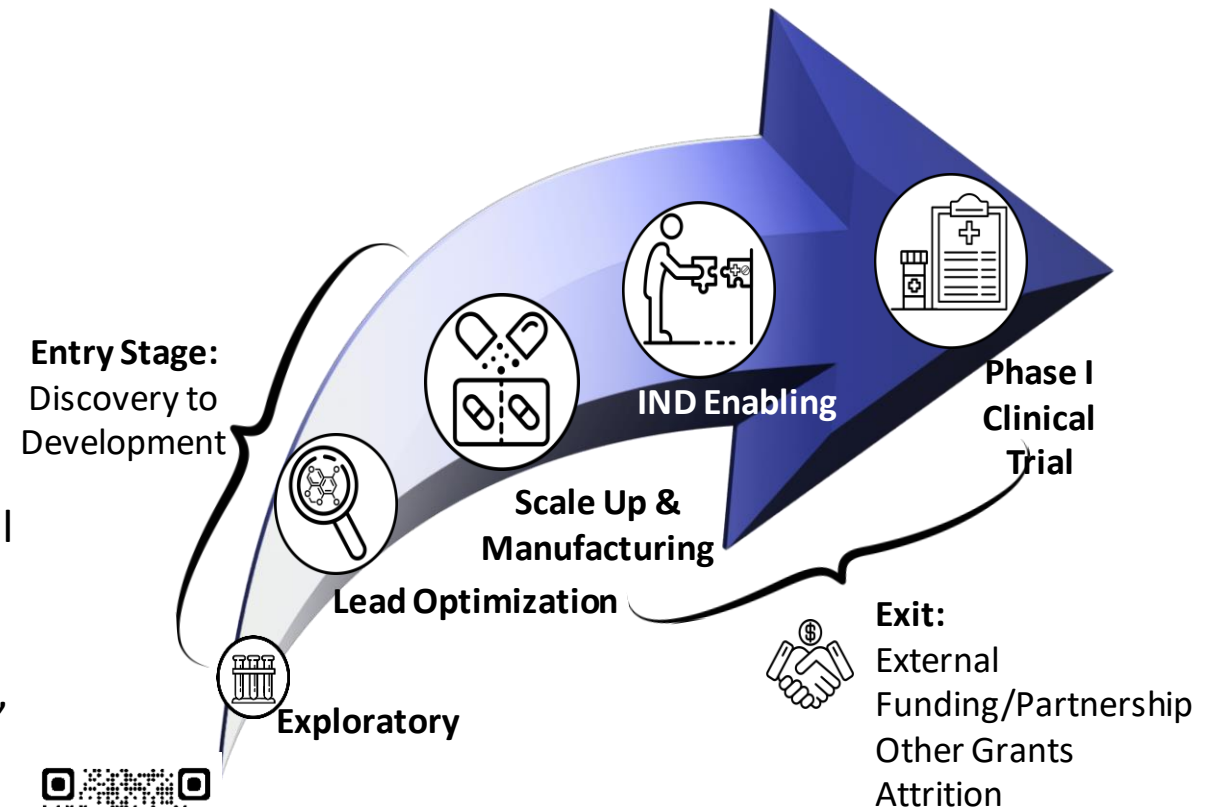
*Budget: ≤ \$499,000/Year; ≤ \$750,000 for Project*





## Grand Challenge to Provide Grant Funding and Resources to Facilitate Drug Discovery and Development to Treat Nervous System Disorders

1. Identify the best ideas for translation in the NIH research community.
2. Provide non-dilutive grant (PAR) funding and necessary resources (contracts, consultants, etc.)
3. Preserve PI/Institution's Intellectual Property (IP) to facilitate licensing.
4. De-risk potential therapeutics to the point that industry will invest in them.
5. Project scope: NCCIH, NEI, NIA, NIAAA, NIBIB, NIDA, NIDCR, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS, OBSSR
6. Work in partnership with CDER and CBER to navigate the regulatory path

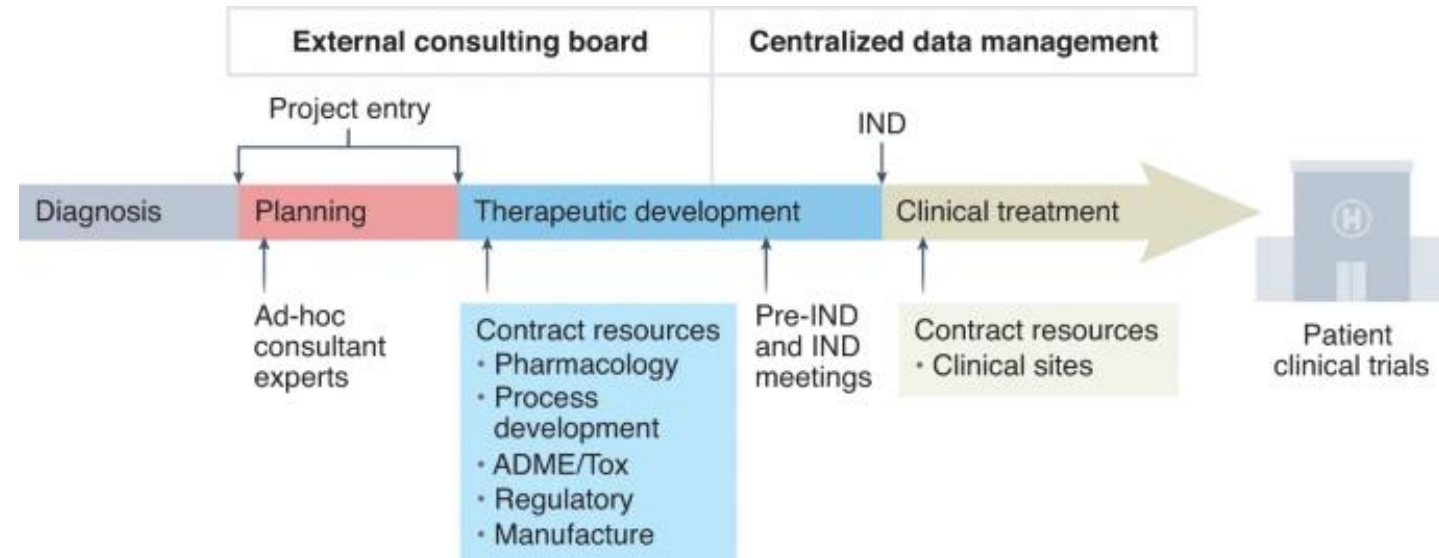


# URGenT Network for Ultra-Rare Neurological Diseases



Support development of **gene-based therapies for ultra-rare neurological diseases**, which affect as few or fewer than 1:50,000 people.

- ✓ Phased program with **multiple entry points**
- ✓ Funding and resources to advance gene-based therapies - **nonclinical clinical studies**
- ✓ Accelerated development timeline (**3 years start to finish**)
  - [PAR-22-030](#) (U01)
  - [PAR-22-028](#) (X01)
  - [OTA-24-002](#)
  - [OTA-24-003](#)



Correspondence | [Published: 04 November 2021](#)

## **NINDS launches network to develop treatments for ultra-rare neurological diseases**

[Nina F. Schor](#), [Amir P. Tamiz](#), [Walter J. Koroshetz](#), [NINDS Ultra-Rare Gene-based Therapy \(URGenT\) Working Group](#) & [Ann-Marie Broome](#)

[Nature Biotechnology](#) **39**, 1497–1499 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

**882** Accesses | **15** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

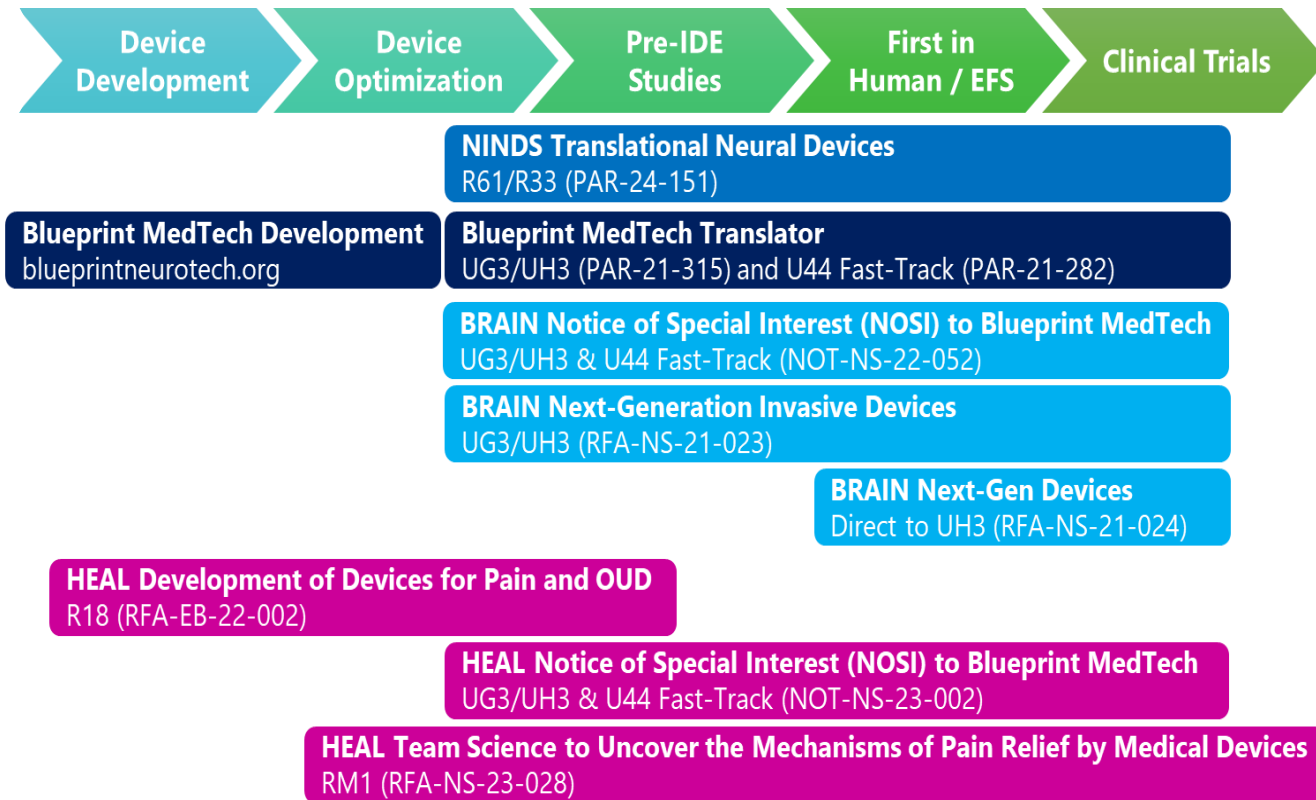
# NINDS Translational Devices Program



**Mission:** To support the development, optimization, translation, and early clinical testing of therapeutic and diagnostic devices for disorders that affect the nervous or neuromuscular systems.

**Funding:** Over 10 funding opportunities and notices managed by our team span the translational pipeline from Device Development through early-stage Clinical Trials.

- ✓ Blueprint MedTech program which provides funding as well as access to in-kind resources and mentorship
- ✓ Special programs that leverage congressional initiatives with set-aside funds, including BRAIN and HEAL
- ✓ Trans-NIH training course to educate innovators
- ✓ Common Fund SPARC program to support development of open-source technologies for neuromodulation



Contact: [NINDS-Devices@nih.gov](mailto:NINDS-Devices@nih.gov)

# Thank you

## NINDS' New Podcast



Amir Tamiz, PhD: [amir.tamiz@nih.gov](mailto:amir.tamiz@nih.gov)

 @NINDStranslate

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/>



## FNIH: ALS Efforts

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**Shubhangi Lal, B.Pharm, MS, MBA**

*Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH)*

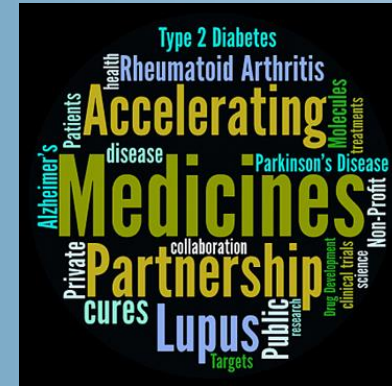
Project Manager, Translational Science



# Accelerating Medicines Partnership®

## Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Shubhangi Lal, B.Pharm, MBA - Project Manager, Translation Science,  
Neuroscience, FNIH



# Foundation for the NIH

## *Building Bridges to Breakthroughs*

The FNIH is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by the U.S. Congress to support the mission of the NIH.

We connect the world's leading public and private organizations

We accelerate new therapies, diagnostics, and potential cures.

We advance global health and seek equity in care.



**600+**

programs supported since inception



**\$1.5B**

raised to date

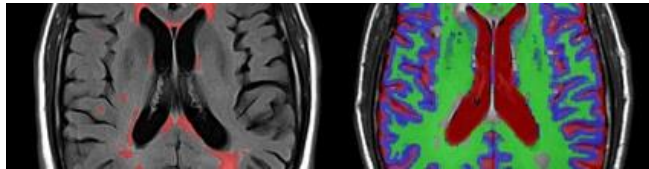


**18**

years of outstanding Charity Navigator ratings

# Major partnerships at the FNIH

Largest organization to manage public-private partnerships



**Alzheimer's Disease  
Neuroimaging Initiative  
(ADNI)**

**\$206 Million**

NIA, NIBIB, 25+ companies,  
3 not-for-profit organizations



**Accelerating COVID 19  
Therapeutic Interventions  
and Vaccines (ACTIV)**

**\$1+ Billion**

NIH (OD), BARDA, CDC, DOD, VA,  
EMA, OWS, FDA, 20 companies, 4  
not-for-profit organizations



**Accelerating Medicines  
Partnership (AMP®)**

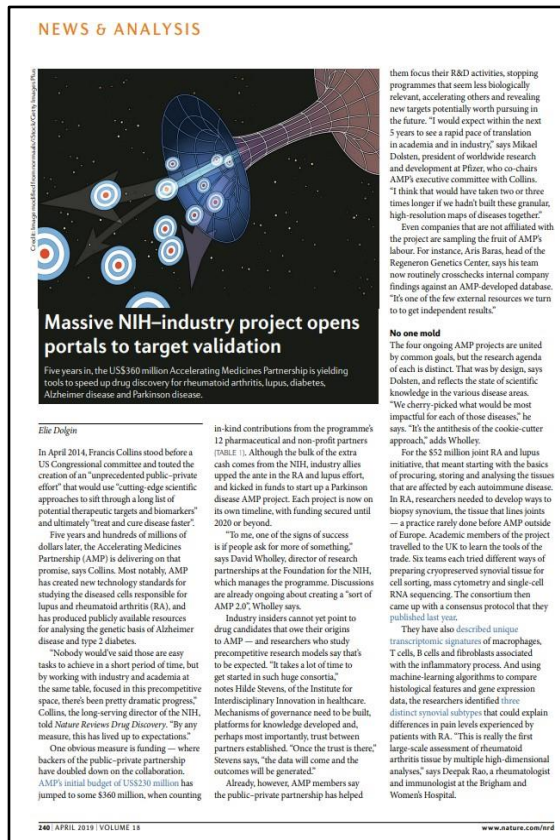
**\$783 Million**

NIH (OD), BARDA, CDC, DOD, VA,  
EMA, OWS, FDA, 20 companies, 4  
not-for-profit organizations

+ more additional partnerships such as the Biomarkers Consortium,  
PACT, GCGH and Lung-MAP

# The Accelerating Medicines Partnership® (AMP®) Program

Precompetitive public-private collaboration started in 2014



- **Unite resources of NIH and private partners to improve our understanding of disease pathways and transform current models for developing new treatments by:**

- Identifying new targets, biomarkers and development paradigms
- Developing leading-edge tools and technologies
- Collecting large scale datasets and supporting analytics for open analysis by the public
- Generating consensus platforms and procedures

For an overview of the AMP Initiative, see:  
Nature Reviews Drug Discovery - February 27, 2019  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41573-019-00033-8>

# AMP<sup>®</sup> ALS: Design Phase Partners

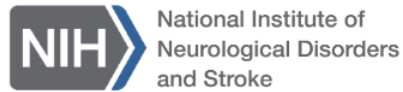
## Steering Committee Co-Chairs:

Dan Doctoroff, Target ALS

Stephanie Fradette, Biogen

Amelie Gubitz, NINDS

### PUBLIC SECTOR



### Ex-Officio Members



### PRIVATE SECTOR

*9 Pharma, 8 NPOs*



# AMP<sup>®</sup> ALS Design Phase Working Groups and Scope



## **People with Lived Experience (PWLE) Engagement**

**Scope:** Support the meaningful participation of PWLE in all aspects of AMP ALS



## **Portal and Data Architecture**

**Scope:** Determine appropriate ALS Knowledge Portal provider and define technical requirements to support data architecture



## **Extant Data**

**Scope:** Identify high-value existing clinical & molecular datasets for integration into the ALS Knowledge Platform



## **Biomarkers & New Clinical Data**

**Scope:** Develop research aims related to the discovery, development, and validation of new and/or optimized biomarkers for ALS



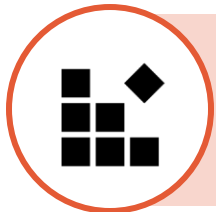
## **Clinical Endpoints**

**Scope:** Identify gaps and opportunities for patient-informed Clinical Outcome Assessment (COA) development

# AMP<sup>®</sup> ALS Provides Solutions for Challenges in ALS Research

## Challenges

## How will AMP<sup>®</sup> ALS help?



Decentralized data storage; need for data harmonization to allow comparisons between datasets



Low inventory of well-annotated longitudinal biospecimens



Delayed diagnosis



Difficulties in assessing treatment response



Clinical and statistical limitations, insufficient standardization Clinical Outcome Assessments (COAs)



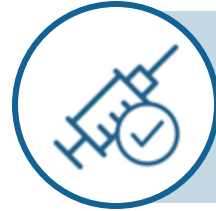
Establish an ALS Knowledge Platform



Launch of "ALL ALS"  
Clinical Research Consortium



Develop/validate diagnostic biomarkers



Develop/validate monitoring biomarkers



Optimize Clinical Outcome Assessments (COAs) and address regulatory requirements

# Key AMP<sup>®</sup> ALS Deliverables



**Largest harmonized, longitudinal ALS clinical dataset** comprising all stages of ALS, including pre-symptomatic in familial ALS



**Multimodal molecular analyses of longitudinal biofluid samples and post-mortem tissue**, including whole genome, gene expression, targeted and untargeted proteomics data



**New biofluid-based and digital biomarkers** to aid in early diagnosis, monitor disease progression, as well as response to treatment



**New patient-informed Clinical Outcome Assessments**



Thank you!

# Panel Discussion/Question and Answer



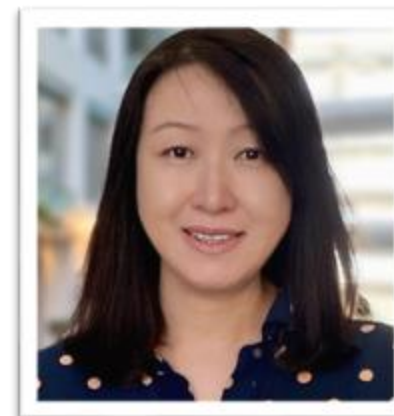
*Building a rare disease  
community that works. Together.*



**Klaus Romero, MD, MS, FCP**  
*Critical Path Institute*  
Chief Executive Officer



**Michelle Campbell, PhD**  
*U.S Food and Drug Administration*  
Associate Director, Office of  
Neuroscience, CDER



**Gumei Liu, MD, PhD**  
*U.S. Food and Drug Administration*  
Associate Director for Policy



**Collin Hovinga, PharmD, MS, FCCP**  
*Critical Path Institute*  
Vice President, Rare and Orphan  
Disease Programs



**Teresa Buracchio, MD**  
*U.S. Food and Drug Administration*  
Director, Office of Neuroscience,  
CDER



**Amir Tamiz, PhD**  
*NINDS*  
Director, Division of Translational  
Research

# Closing Remarks



**Collin Hovinga, PharmD, MS, FCCP**  
*Critical Path Institute*  
Vice President, Rare and Orphan Disease  
Programs



**Teresa Buracchio, MD**  
*U.S. Food and Drug Administration*  
Director, Office of Neuroscience, CDER



# CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE

## Questions?

Email [RODadmin@c-path.org](mailto:RODadmin@c-path.org)

THANK  
YOU!

*Building a rare disease  
community that works. Together.*

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