

# Themed Issue

## Innovations for Enhancing the Informativeness and Quality of Clinical Trials



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The informativeness of clinical trials has been called into question in recent years. Clinical trials that fail to provide informative data drain valuable resources in academic health centers and place unnecessary burdens on clinical research staff, administrative and regulatory bodies, and human subjects research infrastructure. More importantly, the ethicality of enrolling participants into trials that are uninformative is questionable.

Uninformative clinical trials fail to advance translational science, they fail to inform clinical decision making and health care policy, and they do a disservice to research participants and the communities they represent, thus raising questions about academic oversight.

In this context, the urgency and magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic promulgated multiple clinical trial innovations from adaptive platform trials to decentralized and virtual trials. New approaches to sharing data among trials, and for overseeing multiple trials of similar agents have been explored. Many of the innovative trials reflect a greater utilization of real-world approaches and have leveraged adaptive designs. Newer approaches reflect a greater utilization of real-world approaches, and they leverage adaptive designs and alternative statistical paradigms. The lessons learned from the launch and implementation of these clinical trials, particularly regarding their quality and informativeness, have yet to be disseminated.

Clinical and translational scientists have a responsibility to educate and train students and junior faculty on

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best practices to optimize clinical trial design so that data are of value. This value may be in finetuning future approaches for larger trials in development, or providing information that can guide clinical, regulatory or policy decision making. The informativeness of clinical trials must be contextualized in the broad application of their findings to a diverse community, as well as the potential for translating clinical trial findings into practice.

This themed issue of JCTS is expected to address broad issues related to improving the informativeness and quality of clinical trials. Through this open call, we are soliciting manuscripts that contribute to understanding and improving the informativeness of trials, including but not limited to:

- ◆ Strategies to enhance the quality of clinical trials
- ◆ Strategies to optimize diversity in clinical trial design
- ◆ Contributions of implementation science toward optimizing clinical trial design
- ◆ Lessons learned from adaptive and real-world clinical trial designs during COVID-19
- ◆ Enhancing clinical trial design through cohort exploration in electronic health care systems
- ◆ Benefits of clinical trial management systems
- ◆ Educational approaches for clinical trial design
- ◆ Optimizing clinical trials for the digital age
- ◆ Institutional responsibilities and best practices for conducting clinical trials

Submissions should be made online via the Journal's [ScholarOne submission site](#) no later than January 31, 2023. Authors are asked to select **Innovations for Enhancing the Informativeness and Quality of Clinical Trials** for the Themed Issue submission question when submitting to this issue. Accepted articles will be published online in FirstView ahead of being compiled into the themed issue.

Manuscripts may be submitted for peer review in any of the Journal's article types listed [here](#). For a full description of each manuscript category, as well as, information on the submission of manuscripts, journal policy and journal style, please visit the [JCTS Instructions for Contributors](#) on Cambridge Core.

JCTS is a fully Gold Open Access journal. Information on the Journal's Open Access policies, including the current Article Processing Charge, can be found [here](#). For additional information regarding the mission to the journal, see <http://www.actscience.org/page/journal-of-clinical-and-translational-science>.

Questions regarding this themed issue should be directed to the Guest Co-Editors listed above via the JCTS Editorial Office([jcts@cambridge.org](mailto:jcts@cambridge.org)).