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**(Name of Institution) Supports Adoption of Accelerated Clinical Trial Agreement (ACTA)**

Many organizations face challenges in finalizing clinical trial agreements. Data from a 2010 Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Contracts Processing Study1 showed that an average contract negotiation time (exclusive of budget and IRB approval) of 55 days could be reduced to 22 days if a master agreement was used.

“This information prompted us to challenge CTSA awardees to develop an efficient contract that, if adopted, could help reduce delays in trial start-up,” said Petra Kaufmann, M.D., M.Sc., director of the Division of Clinical Innovation at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). NCATS leads the CTSA program.

Developed with support from NCATS through NIH grant #5U54TR000123, the [Accelerated Clinical Trial Agreement (ACTA)](https://ara4us.org/acta/) is a standardized clinical trial agreement — a single agreement to be used by each participating institution and sponsor — to reduce contract negotiations for industry-sponsored, multi-center studies. The CTSA Contracts Working Group is comprised of legal experts from about 25 CTSA institutions, in collaboration with industry representatives and the University Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP).

The ACTA is a straightforward and unambiguous document which clearly sets forth the contractual obligations of both parties, and presents language which — while perhaps not ideal for either party — is acceptable to both. Adoption and use of the ACTA will expedite the contract negotiation process and reduce the time it takes to start up industry-sponsored, multi-center clinical trials.

To date, approximately 50 organizations representing more than 225 research sites, including academic medical centers, universities, hospitals and physician practices, have agreed to the terms of the ACTA and accept the ACTA without revision.

Those interested in using the ACTA or additional accelerated agreements can find more information at [www.ara4us.org](http://www.ara4us.org).

(1) ***\* Observational study of contracts processing at 29 CTSA sites****.* [*Clin Transl Sci.*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=CTSA+contract,+rosenblum) *2013 Aug;6(4):279-85.* [*Kiriakis J*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Kiriakis%20J%5bAuthor%5d&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23919362)*,* [*Gaich N*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Gaich%20N%5bAuthor%5d&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23919362)*,* [*Johnston SC*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Johnston%20SC%5bAuthor%5d&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23919362)*,* [*Kitterman D*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Kitterman%20D%5bAuthor%5d&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23919362)*,* [*Rosenblum D*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Rosenblum%20D%5bAuthor%5d&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23919362)*,* [*Salberg L*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Salberg%20L%5bAuthor%5d&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23919362)*,* [*Rifkind A*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Rifkind%20A%5bAuthor%5d&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=23919362).