Our Why

The Deep South experiences disproportionately low life expectancy (left; 2023) and high poverty (right; 2021).

Our Mission

The mission of the CCTS Partner Network is to discover and advance scientific findings that can ameliorate disparities in chronic diseases disproportionately affecting the under-represented communities we serve.

Opportunity Creation

HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
Site Lead: Rick Myers, PhD
- High throughput genomics, bioinformatics & analytic pipelines.
- Innovative approaches and specialized technology for genetic and genomic analysis.
- Genome sequencing and analysis for the Undiagnosed Diseases Program (UDP).

Louisiana State Univ. Health Sciences Center
Site Lead: Lucio Miele, MD, PhD
- Louisiana Cancer Research Center (LCRC) Tissue/Biospecimen Repository.
- Southeastern Informatics Consortium and the Biostatistics Collaborator.

Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Site Lead: Eric Ravussin, PhD
- Investigative expertise in obesity and aging research, botanicals and metabolic syndrome, and drug development.
- Member of the National Exercise Trials Network (NExTNet)

University of Mississippi
Site Lead: Meagan Brown, PharmD
- School of Pharmacy
- National Center for Natural Products Research

Tulane University
Site Lead: Tonette Krousel-Wood, MD
- Translational research and training strengths & clinical trials.
- Core assets in clinical research, clinical research career development, molecular genetics, bioinformatics, ethics, and community participation.

Tuskegee University
Site Lead: Timothy Turner, PhD
- National Center for Bioethics in Research and Healthcare.
- Regional and National leadership in bioethics

The University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa
Site Lead: John Higginbotham, PhD, MPH
- Expertise in rural health, community engagement and clinical trials.
- Collaboration with the Institute for Rural Health Research.

University of South Alabama
Site Lead: Mark Gillespie, PhD
- Expertise in clinical trials, translational and community research
- Translational Research Service Core

Southern Research
Site Leads: Corinne Augelli-Szafran, PhD & Paige Vinson, PhD
- Experience in small molecule screening, lead discovery and optimization, and preclinical drug development.
- Drug discovery efforts with special emphasis on oncological, antiviral, and cytoprotective drugs

University of Alabama at Birmingham
MPis: Robert P. Kimberly, MD & Orlando Gutierrez, MD
- Medical Research Institution Hub for CTSA
- Foundation of coordinating efforts spanning clinical translations, research, training, partner network, community engagement initiatives and beyond