National Exercise Clinical Trials Network (NExTNet)

NExTNet was established in 2012 to lead and facilitate rigorous, multi-site exercise clinical trials that will fill major knowledge gaps in exercise biology and medicine (e.g., dose-response relationships; exercise-drug/device interactions; response heterogeneity, exercise genomics, and personalized medicine; disease and population specificity; and bio-behavioral mechanisms of adherence and behavioral change). The network brings together the physical and intellectual resources of an interdisciplinary, collaborative team of the nation’s leading experts in the field. Currently 77 institutions from coast to coast are members, and the UAB Center for Exercise Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) serves as the Coordinating Center. In addition to establishing procedures for protocol standardization across sites, the network is supported by REDCap databases for data entry/auditing, searchable site-specific data, and resource sharing. The databases contain detailed contact information, expertise, capabilities, and equipment inventories for testing cardiopulmonary function, neuromuscular function, body composition, and metabolites; resistance training; endurance or interval training; and descriptions of key ancillary services (core laboratories, clinical research units, bioinformatics and statistical design/analysis services, etc). The resource sharing database compiles exercise trials data and resources available for sharing, including biological specimens.

NExTNet strategic planning teleconferences occur bi-monthly, and a few face-to-face meetings occur each year. NExTNet is guided by a 6-member Executive Committee: Marcas Bamman, PhD, founding Director, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB); William Kraus, MD, Duke University; Wendy Kohrt, PhD, University of Colorado-Denver; John Jakicic, PhD, University of Pittsburgh; Scott Trappe, PhD, Ball State University; Frank Booth, PhD, University of Missouri; and ex officio member Jim Whitehead, ACSM VP/CEO.