

**IECRN National Leadership Forum  
May 31, 2006  
IECRN Objectives**

**Presenter:**

**Jody Sachs, D.P.M.**

Scientific Project Officer, NIH Roadmap  
Project Officer, IECRN

DR. SACHS: I would like to ask the Westat team to come on up, please. Thank you.

My name is Jody Sachs, and I work at NCRR, at NIH. I am the contract officer. I wanted to set the stage a little bit for you to know what was going to happen today.

As mentioned earlier by both Dr. Zerhouni and Dr. Katz, this is part of the NIH Roadmap Enterprise, which is re-engineering the clinical research enterprise.

Particular work that is being done is the inventory and evaluation of clinical research networks.

There is a Web site that is set up, NIH Web site. You can go to it, [Nihroadmap.nih.gov](http://Nihroadmap.nih.gov), and all the information about the roadmap is contained on the Web site, including the information from this particular initiative.

There are two portions of the initiative. One is the inventory and evaluation of clinical research networks, which is what we call IECRN, and the other is a group of Contracts 12 on the feasibility of integrating and expanding the clinical research networks.

You will hear from this afternoon. There are supposed to be presentations on all the contracts, along with others. So I hope you will stay at 5:00 and you will hear all about them.

This particular contract, I just wanted to give you a little bit of background. It was awarded in September of 2004. It is led by a Westat team, including a Lockheed Martin Aspen Systems Corporation, Social and Scientific Systems, and Borland.

It also is led by an external advisory committee of clinical research networks experts and it also has oversight by the Trans-NIH Roadmap Steering Committee, who I want to thank.

The major goals of the IECRN were to develop a full searchable inventory and database of clinical research networks. That has been done and you will hear about that, to describe operational and organizational clinical research network characteristics and key areas, and that has been done; and, examine existing CRN, which is clinical research network practices that allow achievement of goals through operating efficiently and promoting successful interactions internally and externally; and, to conduct the National Leadership Forum to discuss these findings, which is today.

Additional information can be found on this particular Web site. It is [Clinicalresearchnetworks.org](http://Clinicalresearchnetworks.org). All the information from the inventory, which is a database of all the

clinical research networks, can be found.

So I encourage you all to go on and look at it.

This particular contract is a contract of firsts. It is the first inventory that has been done for clinical research networks. We didn't know what the world looked like before in clinical research networks. Now, at least we have a picture. It was, first, to gather our clinical research network infrastructure data.

Again, it helps to complete a better picture of where we are. It was first systematically to collect barrier and facilitator information in the clinical research network information.

And it was first to convene a meeting like this, full of clinical research network stakeholders, for exchange of ideas and optimized clinical research enterprise.

The purpose of this particular meeting is to review the IECRN survey findings and results. The survey results provide a network that exists, what they do, how they do it.

It will also explore and recommend next steps for your own networks and for the NIH.

The agenda for today. This morning, you will hear about the findings from the IECRN from now until 12:00. Then we will have lunch. It will be here in the dining area. We will

have breakout sessions starting at 1:30 to 5:00 this afternoon, and poster session starting at 5:00 to 7:00.

Tomorrow, we will have a keynote speaker and health IT overview, early in the morning, at 8:15 going to about 9:15. Then we will have the breakout reports from the breakout sessions today, and they will be from 9:45 tomorrow to 2:00.

All the information on today's meeting is posted. It is available, it is viewable. All the findings are viewable, and they are on these particular Web site, [Clinicalresearchnetworks.org/forum](http://Clinicalresearchnetworks.org/forum).

All the information that will come out of this meeting and the summaries will be posted, also.

So with that, I would like to introduce Stephen Durako, who is Vice President of Westat. I want to also acknowledge and thank him for all his efforts to put this together.

Thank you.