

**IECRN National Leadership Forum
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Introduction to Breakout Sessions**

Presenter:

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DR. SACHS: Okay. So I know everybody is anxious to stretch, but I just wanted to give you a few things to think about and things to think about that we know right now from the inventory and evaluation of clinical research networks initiative is we have a window to look into and see what really exists in the clinical research network world.

We also are provided a snapshot of all the federal government and private sponsored networks currently engaged in clinical research.

We have brought you together and this bringing you together is to engage your opinions. So we want to let you have the opportunity to give us your opinion of what is going on in your network and let your voice be heard.

It is very important that we exchange information. You have the opportunity this afternoon. It is really a good opportunity. We are excited you are here, because we want to hear from you.

And it will do no good if we stand up and talk for another two days, if we don't find out what is going on in your

network and what does that bring to another network.

So we want this exchange of information. We need right now to examine and define the clinical research networks and identify what works well.

We need to identify the gaps and make improvements, and some of you have mentioned what gaps exist, that you are not included. So you will have the opportunity to talk about those.

And we need to know what areas and where to invest. We also ask you to engage each other in discussion, to ask questions, to interact during the day with everyone, with those around you and those in the breakouts, and to help formulate a plan for the improvements in the clinical research networks.

There are a set of questions. You can see them in your folders and, also, in the breakout groups.

Some questions to think about, are any of the inventory and study results unexpected; if so, why? I'm reading off different questions. So you are not going to follow those, but that is okay, because those are too small anyway.

Some of the other things to think about. How can we generalize practices among the clinical research networks to enhance the function of your network? How will the insights provided by this inventory be helpful in increasing efficiency and overcoming issues within your own network?

What are the most important topics or issues that were not covered in the survey? We want to know, but we also want to address them in the future.

What additional information or experiences will enhance the performance of the clinical research studies and networks, in clinical trials and, also, networks?

What incentives are most crucial for adoption of good network practices?

So you will have the opportunity to respond to these questions and, also, you will see a set of questions in your folders.

Just to let give you an overview of the way things will work this afternoon. Today you will be in two different breakout sessions, one starting at 1:30 and the next one starting at 3:20. So you will see they both end at 5:00 and then we will go on to the poster sessions today.

There will be reports from these breakout sessions. You will have content experts in each of the breakout sessions. These list the breakouts, one and two. There will be content experts and someone to discuss and capture your notes, so that there will be a plan and a report given tomorrow.

The rooms are listed here. They are also on the agenda. So find your breakout room, find your session. And I

am not going to read them, but they will be right here.

You are part of the process, all of you. To make improvements, you are in the process right now. In the healthcare, accrual, early predictors of disease, they are all dependent on clinical research and all of you attending today.

All participants are asked today to help design a go forward plan for improvements that can be applied to your network. So don't think it doesn't matter. It does matter. It matters to you, it matters to all of us.

We want to know how to look at the future. We want a go forward plan of improvements.

So it is something to think about while you eat and come back at 1:30 and we will see you then.

One other announcement. The content experts are in a blue sheet in your folder. And one other announcement is that comments are collected throughout the day. If you write them down, take them with you to the breakout. Any comments will be addressed. We will post them on the Web.

Thank you.

[Applause.]