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An interdisciplinary approach to tracking and evaluation: The Washington University Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences Tracking and Evaluation Team

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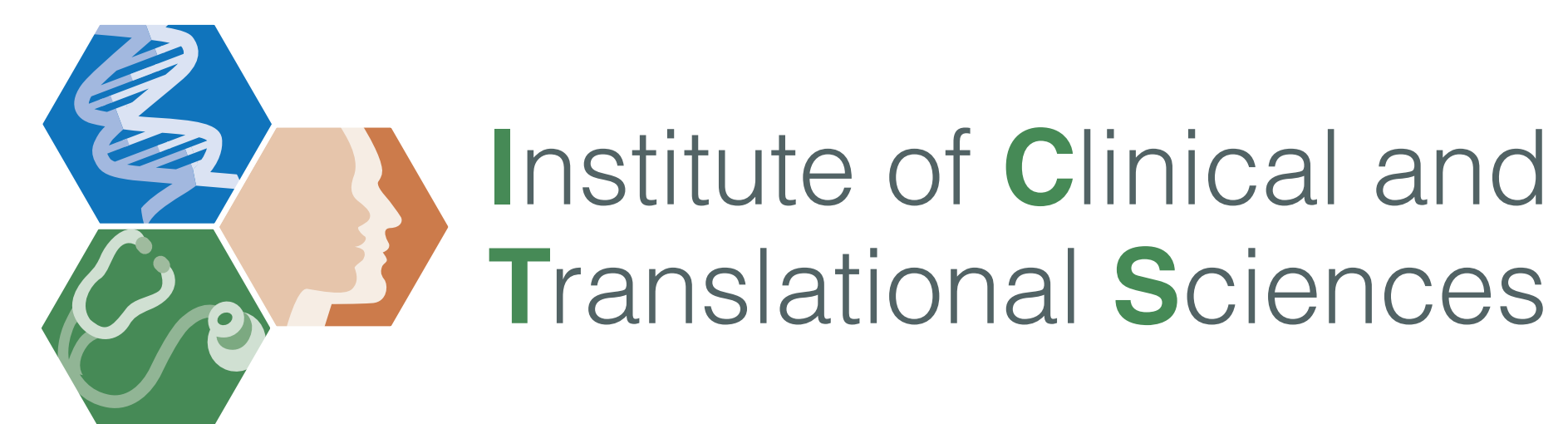
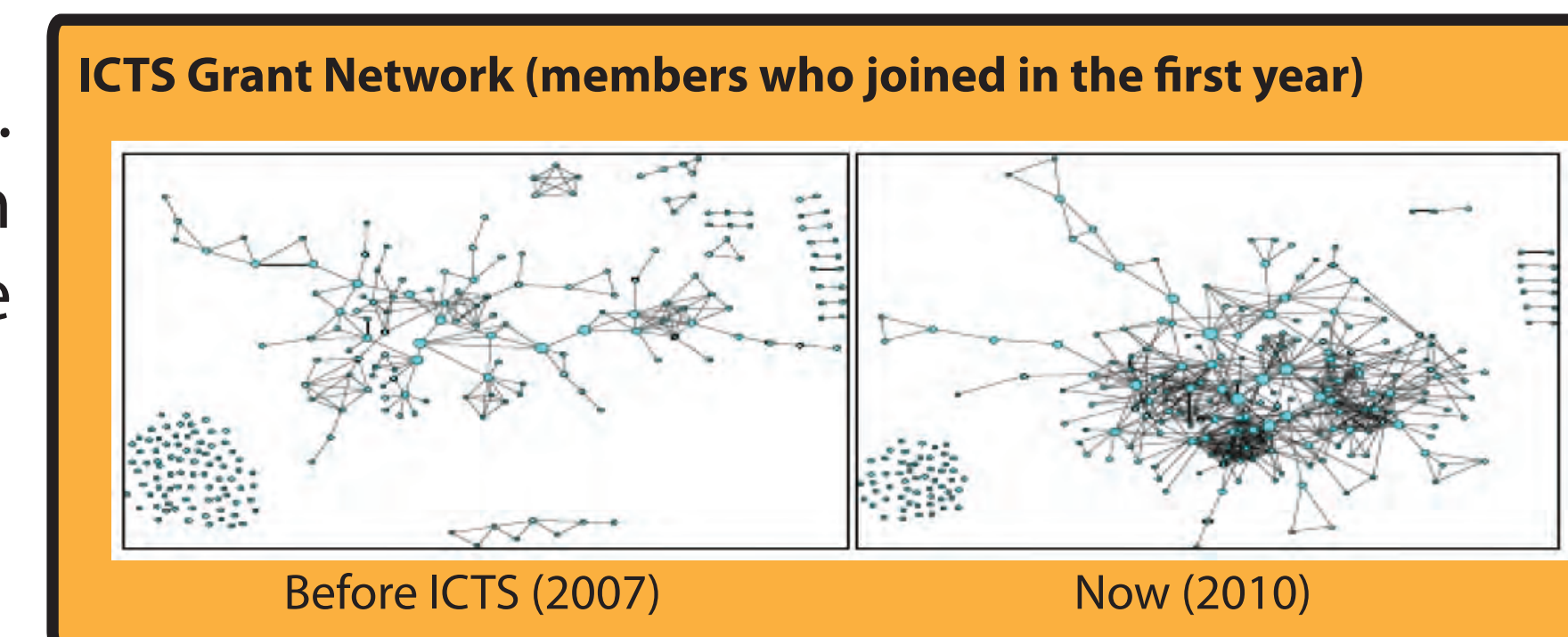
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The Team

One of the hallmarks of a successful clinical and translational research institute is cooperation from diverse stakeholders to form productive, interdisciplinary teams. These teams work toward the goal of improved human health through a more efficient, inventive, and effective research lifecycle. Indeed, teams comprised of diverse collaborators are often more efficient, encouraging sustained innovation and facilitating a synergistic environment.¹

It is not only the research groups that can benefit from an interdisciplinary team-based approach; the groups charged with evaluating translational efforts also benefit from cooperation across expertise and subject disciplines. The Washington University Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences Tracking and Evaluation Team maintains a diverse membership, with expertise in areas such as qualitative and quantitative assessment, bibliometrics, social network analysis², assessment of education and training infrastructure and outcomes³, and informatics⁴. The team also benefits from more diverse types of expertise such as research impact assessment^{5,6}, and expertise with types and sources of critical data (including Linked Open Data held in local research discovery systems like VIVO). Strong leadership of the group and project management guidance help to foster collaboration and drive group efforts forward.

The group has produced products such as network maps⁷ to evaluate collaboration at three phases of the research cycle (i.e. grant development and submission; active scientific collaboration; and scientific publication). This work required expertise in social network analysis, bibliometrics, and qualitative and quantitative assessment including survey development. Of note are contributions by a variety of team members in data acquisition and analysis of grants, publications, and other scholarly data.



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⁷Scientific Collaboration: The Good News." Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences NEWS. Web. Feb. 2012. <<http://icts.wustl.edu/about/Feb2012ICTSNews.pdf>>.

