

FOR IMMEDIATE  
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**Genetic Alliance Celebrates Great Day for Translational Science**  
*Christopher P. Austin, M.D. named National Center for Advancing Translational  
Sciences director*

WASHINGTON – September 14, 2012 – Genetic Alliance applauds the appointment of Christopher Austin, MD as the first director of the [National Center for Advancing Translational Science](#) (NCATS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This is a great day for translational science and the people who stand to benefit from it: every one of us!

A developmental neurogeneticist by training, Dr. Austin has been serving as the director of the NCATS Division of Pre-Clinical Innovation since NCATS' launch. Before that, he held positions as director of the NIH Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases program as well as its Chemical Genomics Center and Senior Advisor to the Director for Translational Research at the National Human Genome Research Institute.

“I have worked with Chris since he came to NIH,” said Sharon Terry, President and CEO of Genetic Alliance. “He is an extraordinary systems thinker. He doesn't avoid the hard problems, and this area is replete with them. He will keep people at the center of his work, and take the right risks to accelerate translational science. I look forward to him being even more bold in this important position. NIH leadership has made the right choice!”

NCATS was established in December 2011 to develop innovations to reduce, remove or bypass costly and time-consuming bottlenecks in the translational research pipeline in an effort to speed the delivery of new drugs, diagnostics and medical devices to patients.

For more information, see the [NIH press release](#).

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**About Genetic Alliance**

*Genetic Alliance transforms health through genetics, promoting an environment of openness centered on the health of individuals, families, and communities. Genetic Alliance brings together diverse stakeholders that create novel partnerships in advocacy; integrates individual, family, and community perspectives to improve health systems; and revolutionizes access to information to enable translation of research into services and individualized decision making. For more information about Genetic Alliance, visit <http://www.geneticalliance.org>.*