

BACKGROUND

In January 2019, Rutgers University (RU) and the RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) system entered into an agreement to form an Academic Health System (AHS). As a result, we had an extraordinary opportunity to expand Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) clinical research to nine of the fourteen hospitals of RWJBH.

METHODS

In order to streamline activating studies at all our locations, we formed an integrated, unified “one site” model. The Office of Protocol Activation was established to streamline, standardize and support feasibility and clinical trial activation activities across the organization. Our unified research structure included:

- One IRB
- One CTMS (OnCore)
- One Contract/Budget
- One Protocol Activation Office

OUTCOMES

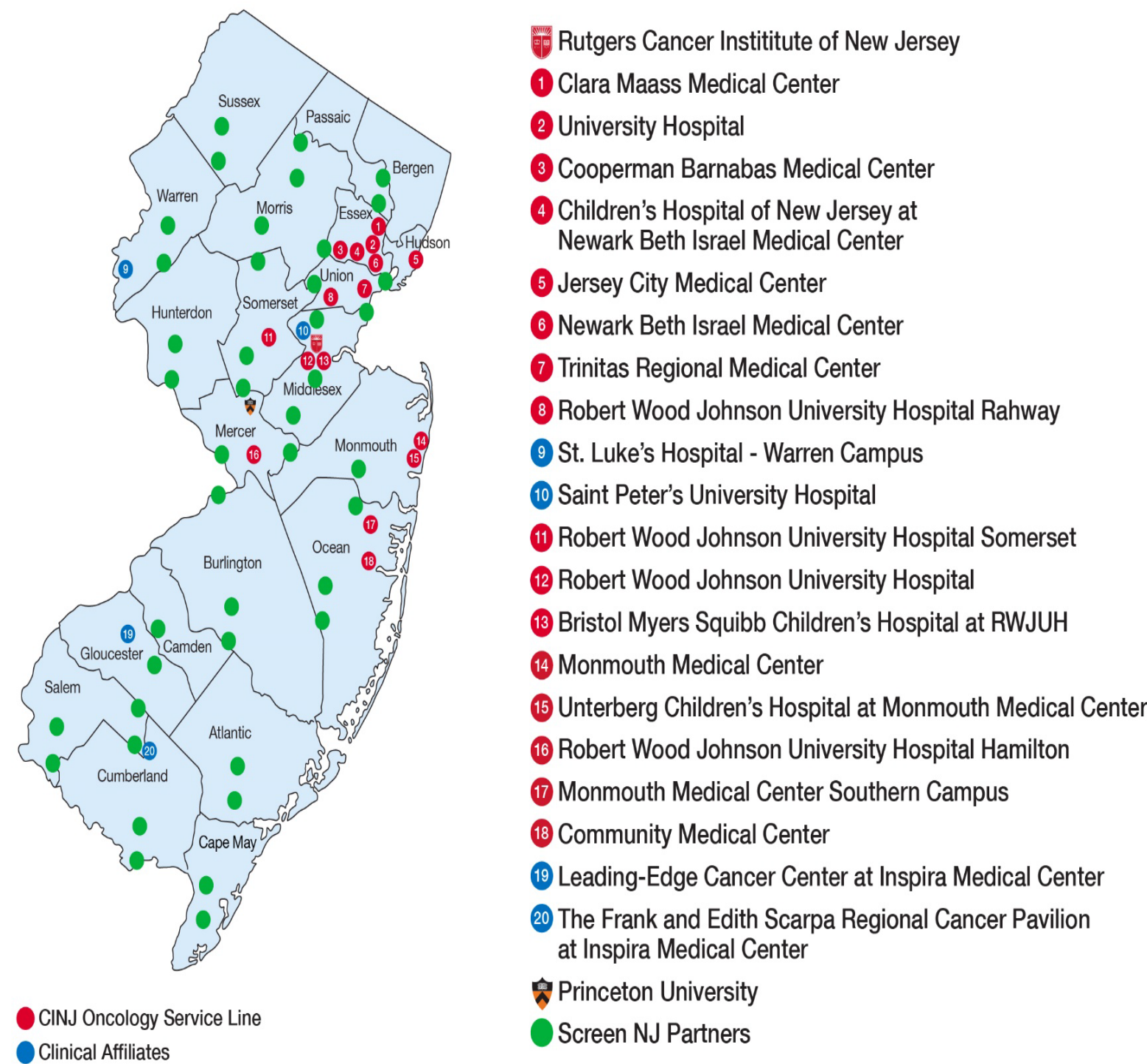
Protocol Activation Metrics (MEDIAN DAYS)			
Metric	2021	2022	Improvement
IRB Submission to IRB Approval	30	21	30%
Contract Turnaround	80	60	25%
Budget Turnaround	86	60	30%
SRB Submission to Open to Accrual	167	72	232%

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

CINJ was able to access unprecedented numbers of patients for clinical research activities as well as improve representation of our catchment area. By deploying the one site model across 11 locations through the state, we were able to improve access to studies while reducing activation time lines. Our ability to open trials at multiple locations was facilitated by educating sponsors on the value and strength of our one site model which took a significant time investment up front. Centralization of protocol activation activities allowed streamlined communication between sponsors, legal, finance and regulatory which was critical to getting studies activated quickly.

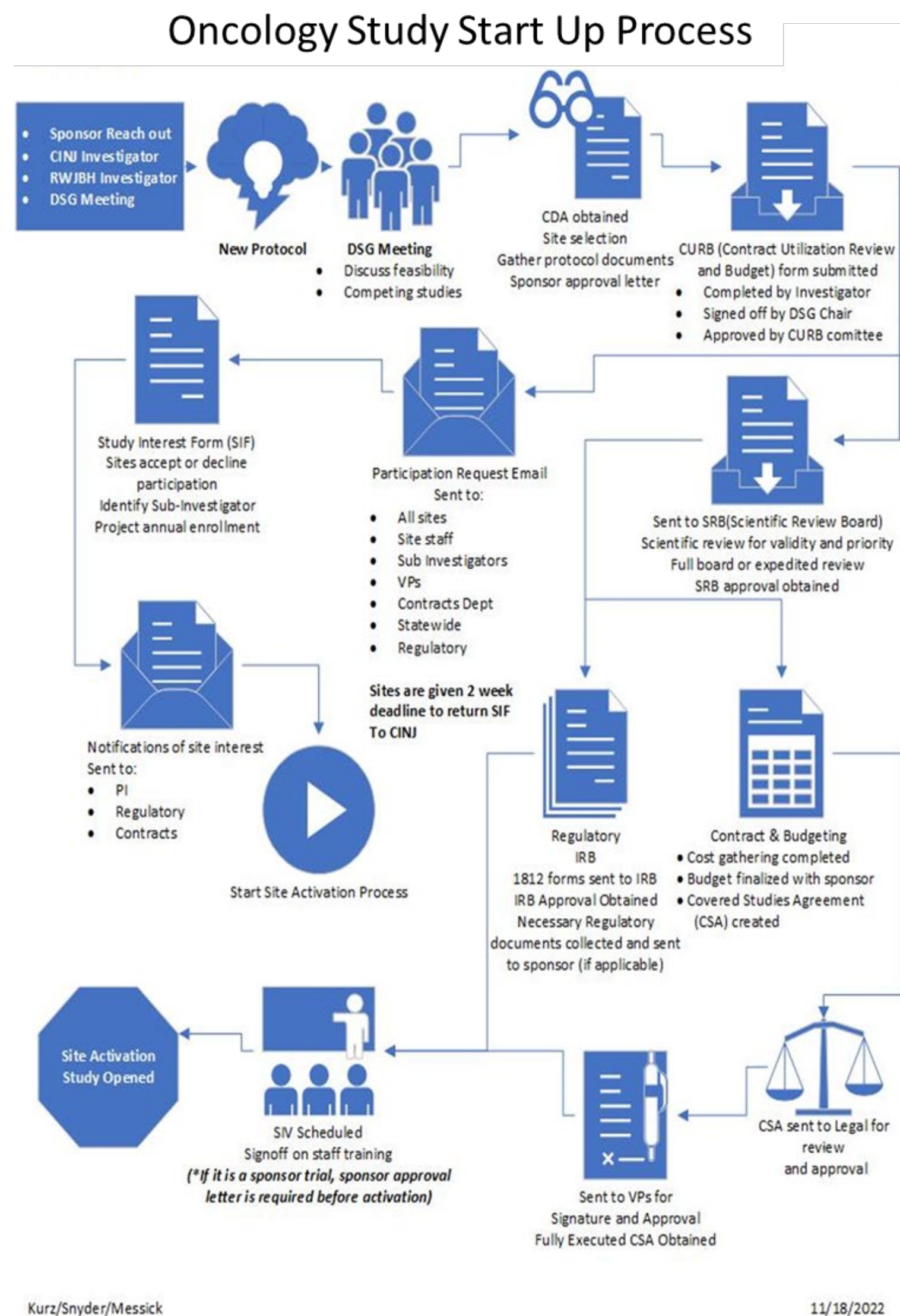
Future directions include:

- Continuing to enhance operational efficiencies in order to increase accrual and reduce time to activation to meet our goal of < 60 days.
- Utilizing Deep6 and EPIC to assist ensure catchment area needs and priorities are appropriately captured on feasibility assessments.
- Focus on promoting more phase III trials, particularly from NCTN, to meet the needs of the patients treated by a large number of primary oncology providers practicing across the RWJBH System. We continue to promote the “culture” of clinical research at all sites.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To promote and simplify access and implementation of clinical trials to increase accrual and engagement at CINJ and RWJBH sites.



- Primary outcome:
 - Opened 80 clinical trials across 11 sites. Including Cooperative Group, IITs, Industry Sponsored and BIG Ten Consortium studies
- Secondary outcomes:
 - 300% increase in enrollment across the Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health System.
 - 94 unique investigators contributed to annual accrual of 600 subjects to interventional studies.
 - Minority accrual percentage has increased from 27.6% in 2017 to 45% in 2022.

