Clinical Research News You Can Use...

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October’s CRE Course has a New Look
Clinical Trials Resource Center

The Clinical Research Education (CRE) Course was held on October 20-22, 2015 at UTHealth’s Cooley University Life Center. The course offered lectures by UTHealth and Memorial Hermann staff, and about 30 participants attended.

This October’s CRE course was organized a bit differently than in the recent past. This is primarily because SPA’s Clinical Research Finance (CRF) team is now offering monthly Lunch and Learn sessions. As a result, topics in budgeting and billing have been removed from Day 3 and replaced by seminars on iRIS, outside IRBs, and CTSA-funded services (i.e., CCTS, the Clinical Research Unit, the Biobank, Clinical Trials Xpress, and REDCap). Days 1 and 2 of October’s course proceeded as in the past, focusing on study management and guidance for good clinical practice (GCP).

Attendee Ruth Medcalf, MS, Clinical Research Specialist from the Clinical Innovation and Research Institute (CIRI) at Memorial Hermann stated, “These past few days were so informative and so helpful, and I really feel like I know a lot more now than I did going in.” She added, “The whole event was so well organized from beginning to end. I was introduced to so many resources and contacts, and I know that I will be referring to my course binder often. Thank you for such a great experience!”

Vyju Ram, MD, Manager of UTHealth’s Conflict of Interest Program attended Day 1, and she remarked, “The CRE course packs a wealth of information useful to all persons involved in clinical research into a 3 day workshop. It is an excellent source of learning for research investigators, nurses, coordinators, trainees, and staff, including those ‘new to research’ who seek guidance and those ‘with research experience’ who seek updates on the latest policies and procedures, and provides a great opportunity for networking as well.”

Jacqueline McLeeland, MBA, Clinical Research Navigator in UT System’s Office of Health Affairs and a Master’s candidate in regulatory affairs had this to say: “The three-day training provided a refresher course, an opportunity to network with other professionals, and an engaging atmosphere to further my own understanding of the clinical research industry. I have worked in clinical research for 12 years, mainly in industry, and have attended several GCP training events. I was pleasantly surprised how much I enjoyed this opportunity and the knowledge gained. If given the opportunity I would want to attend this annual training every year and encourage others to do the same, given the varying nature of regulatory affairs.”

For more information, contact the Clinical Trials Resource Center at clinicaltrials@uth.tmc.edu.
Sana Sarfaraz Joins the Clinical Research Finance (CRF) Team

We are pleased to welcome Sana Sarfaraz, BS to the Clinical Research Finance Team. In her new role, Sana will serve as a Clinical Research Financial Analyst, and her duties include conducting reviews for billing risk, conducting coverage analysis for various studies, and monitoring clinical research billing. She earned a Bachelor of Science in biology and minor in health from University of Houston. Sana has been a Research Coordinator since 2009 and has worked in private practice, as well as for UTMB and UTHealth.

Welcome, Sana!

The Clinical Research Unit (CRU) has Two New Team Members

Kayla Ruch, BS graduated from South Dakota State University with her bachelor’s in biological sciences, where she conducted undergraduate bench work in biochemistry and microbiology. She previously worked in Iowa as a supervisor at a food microbiology and chemistry laboratory and collaborated with their food research and development team on new protocols, equipment, and software. She recently moved to Houston and is working in the CRU as a Research Coordinator and Laboratory Technician.

Patrick Mitcham, BS graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science. He previously worked in the Texas Health Resource network of non-profit hospitals in Denton as a lab technician. He currently serves in the United States Army Reserves as a combat medic with over 10 years of experience. Patrick is under the Department of Orthopaedic Trauma and is currently working in the CRU as a Clinical Research Assistant.

Welcome to the CRU, Kayla and Patrick!

OHRP has Posted Video Resources on the NPRM for Proposed Revisions to the Common Rule

A webcast of the October 20, 2015 Public Town Hall Meeting is at this link. A webinar series covering key aspects of the NPRM is at this link.
Dr. Jennifer Sanner, Co-director of the UTHealth CCTS Biobank and Assistant Professor at the School of Nursing (SON); along with Dr. Erica Yu, Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Programs at the SON; and Dr. Krystle Nomie, previous Biobank Coordinator, recently co-authored a book chapter, *Nursing and Biobanking*, now available via PubMed. The entire book is a comprehensive compilation of the emerging field of Biobanking written by field experts. The *Nursing and Biobanking* chapter focuses on the pivotal role of nurses in translational science, including their knowledge and competency for impacting and facilitating biobanking practices and promoting participant advocacy. The book targets a broad audience of readers such as researchers and policy makers at academic, government, and corporate institutions as well as patients and their advocates. The *Nursing and Biobanking* chapter will be of particular interest to nurse scientists, research nurse coordinators, clinical coordinators, and clinical research and practice nurses.

For further information about the UTHealth CCTS Biobank, visit their website at: [https://www.uth.edu/biobank/](https://www.uth.edu/biobank/).

To query samples and submit a request for samples and/or data, use the Sample Location and Enhanced Distribution (SLED) online system, which can be found on their website and directly at: [https://biobank.uth.tmc.edu/BBCIS/](https://biobank.uth.tmc.edu/BBCIS/).

Or, contact the CCTS Biobank Program Manager, Mary Hall, at: [UTHealth_CCTS_Biobank@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:UTHealth_CCTS_Biobank@uth.tmc.edu) or 713-500-2092.

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**SPA Hosts a Celebration of the First Ever National Research Administrator Day!**

Sponsored Projects Administration hosted a celebration on September 25, 2015 for the first ever National Research Administrator Day. UCT 1505C was decked out in fall decor, and lunch, including an array of delectable desserts, was served to honor the important role of UTHealth’s research administrators.
**Upcoming Training**

**Study Coordinator Monthly Forum**
*Objective:* Discuss best practices in clinical research management and network with administrators and staff from various research groups within UTHealth.
**Date:** November 24, 2015
**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
**Location:** MSB 2.135
*Lunch provided for the first 40 participants.* Registration is not required. Information [here](#).

**Clinical Research Finance Lunch and Learn**
*Objective:* Provide staff members guidance on research financial topics, for example budgeting, billing, and coverage analysis. This forum is also intended to be a place to introduce or update any financial matters, as well as to be a learning experience where employees can bring their questions or concerns to discuss in an open setting with peers.
**Date:** November 11, 2015 (topic: Budgeting and Negotiating with the Sponsor)
**Time:** 11:30 am – 12:30pm
**Location:** MSB 2.135
*Feel free to bring your lunch.* Registration is not required.

**iRIS Training**
*Objective:* Provide hands-on training in the iRIS system, which is used to submit research protocols to UTHealth’s CPHS and AWC.
**Date:** November 18, 2015
**Time:** 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
**Location:** UCT 1155
*Parking will be validated.* Registration is required. Register [here](#).

**Center for Clinical Investigation (CCI) Meeting**
*Objective:* Aid clinical research and reduce the burden on individual teams by identifying best practices, streamlining clinical research management processes, and providing education, training, and support to clinical research staff.
**Date:** November 9, 2015
**Time:** 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
**Location:** UTPB 1100.55
Registration is not required.

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**About the Clinical Trials Resource Center**

It is the mission of the Clinical Trials Resource Center (CTRC) to provide a single portal of expertise and best practices for study teams in order to facilitate efficient, compliant, and ethical study conduct and management. The CTRC office is located at UCT 790. Please visit [https://www.uth.edu/ctrc/](https://www.uth.edu/ctrc/) for more information.

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