The Clinical Research Education Course was held on April 21-23, 2015 at UTHealth’s Cooley University Life Center. The course offered lectures by UTHealth and Memorial Hermann staff, as well as interactive activities and workshops. About 30 participants attended.

Days 1 and 2 focused on guidance for good clinical practice. The first day began with an introduction to clinical research and continued with presentations on IRB and Memorial Hermann hospital review, the Clinical Research Unit, study initiation, study documentation, and the consent process. The day ended with an interactive session that allowed attendees to evaluate special circumstances that may arise during the informed consent process. Day 2 continued with presentations on subject recruitment and retention, the investigational drug service, investigational devices, problem reporting, study closure, and research compliance and monitoring. To cap off the talks on good clinical practice, attendees competed in a game of Jeopardy.

Day 3 of the course focused on clinical trial financial management. Topics included basic financial principles, an overview of UTHealth’s financial systems, negotiation, clinical trial contracts, MHHS’s processes for budgeting and billing of research services, and coverage analysis. To conclude the course, the Clinical Trials Budget Tool was applied in a hands-on budgeting workshop.

Misha Granado, Research Associate in Emergency Medicine, stated, “The Clinical Research Education 3-day workshop is a wonderful resource for new coordinators and researchers or as a refresher course for individuals who have been working in the discipline for some time because policies and procedures constantly change and processes become streamlined.” She added, “The CRE provides the knowledge, resources, and skills and, perhaps as important the workshop, provides the opportunity to meet individuals who we may only know via email.”

Registration for the Fall 2015 course will open soon. Look for announcements on the CTRC website.
Paula Alexander  
Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects

The CPHS office is saddened to announce that Paula Alexander passed away on March 30, 2015. Many of you knew Paula as the voice of the iRIS helpline. She was uniformly friendly and courteous while trying to assist others. Paula is survived by two sisters, her son Kelly, two grandchildren, and other family members. Paula's UTHealth family will miss her warmth and good spirits.

New Harris Health Fee Schedule  
Adapted from a Harris Health System Memo

The fee schedule for Harris Health System services provided for research protocols has been updated and can be downloaded here.

The schedule is also posted on the the CRF website, as well as in iRIS in the “IRB Coordinator Tools” section of “Operating Procedures” under “My Assistant.”

The fees are effective for financial agreements created after April 15, 2015. Existing financial agreements will be honored for the life of the protocol.

Researchers are encouraged to request an initial financial review of a proposed protocol during the preparation of the protocol budget. Harris Health will honor fees quoted during the financial review when the final financial agreement is negotiated.

Please contact Sara Ruppelt at 713-566-6225 or sara.ruppelt@harrishealth.org with any questions.

Upcoming Certification Testing Dates

CCRP certification: For those of you interested in becoming a Certified Clinical Research Professional, the next test date in Houston, TX is at The Methodist Hospital on August 8, 2015 with a registration deadline of June 26, 2015. You can find more information here.

CCRC certification: The next exam dates for certification as a Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) are in September and October 2015. Applications are due by August 15, and you can find more information here.
ClinCard is Coming Soon
Clinical Trials Resource Center

The option to use ClinCard will soon be available to UTHealth study teams. ClinCard is a system that facilitates the compensation and reimbursement of study participants, and payments are made via a secure, reloadable debit card. The benefits of ClinCard include reduced administrative burdens and costs associated with the processing of payments, greater control by PIs over the timing and frequency of payments, and greater patient satisfaction due to instant access to funds. More information on the ClinCard system will be available soon.

Let’s Welcome Rosemary Tran, CTRC’s New Graduate Assistant
Clinical Trials Resource Center

We are pleased to welcome Rosemary Tran to the Clinical Trials Resource Center (CTRC). Rosemary is currently a graduate student in epidemiology at UTHealth’s School of Public Health. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of St. Thomas, where she is also pursuing a Master in Clinical Translation Management degree. Rosemary will provide support in the CTRC as our newest graduate assistant. Welcome, Rosemary!
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:** April 28, 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 Education Program  
**Objective:** Promote excellence in clinical trial management for research nurses, study coordinators, and other research staff. Days 1 and 2 focus on clinical trial management, and day 3 focuses on clinical trial finance and contracting.  
**Date:** October 2015  
**Time:** 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
**Location:** Cooley University Life Center  
Registration will open soon.

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:** April 29, 2015  
**Time:** 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
**Location:** UCT 1160  
*Parking will be validated.*  
Registration is required. Register [here](#).

Center for Clinical Investigation (CCI) Meeting  
**Objective:** Aid clinical research while reducing 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:** May 11, 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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