Kathy Franco has been Promoted to the Position of Director of UTHealth’s CRU

Kathy Franco, RN, BSN, CCRC graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She has previously worked as an OR Scrub Tech, Neonatal ICU nurse, Research Coordinator for Pediatric Infectious Disease, and Director of Women’s and Children’s Clinics at Memorial Hermann Hospital. After coming back to UTHealth and working in the Pediatric Hypertension Research Department, she joined UTHealth’s Clinical Research Unit (CRU) as a Sr. Research Nurse Manager in 2008. Since then, the CRU has expanded services to LBJ and Clinical Trials Xpress and, additionally, has begun work with the Texas Regional CTSA Consortium to help researchers across Texas. These new challenges have earned Kathy a new position as Director of UTHealth’s CRU. Congratulations, Kathy, and thank you for all that you do for the clinical research community! You’re an invaluable asset, and we wish you only the best.

Did You Miss a Coordinator Forum Meeting? Watch the Video!

- Go to the UTHealth Video On Demand Portal at this link. You can also find this link on the CTRC website.
- Login with your UTHealth username and password.
- Select a video to view online.

Topics available include: Planning and Resources for a Career in Healthcare Research at UTHealth, Consent and Children, UTHealth ClinCard, Informed Consent Special Circumstances, ClinicalTrials.gov, and Clinical Trials Xpress.

Upcoming Certification Testing Dates

CCRP certification: For those interested in becoming a Certified Clinical Research Professional, the next exam in Houston is at Methodist Hospital on November 5, 2016 with a registration deadline of September 23, 2016. 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 of 2016. Applications are due by August 15, 2016, and you can find more information here.
Upcoming Training

Clinical Research Finance Lunch and Learn
Objective: Provide staff members guidance on research financial topics (e.g., budgeting, billing, and coverage analysis). Also, a forum to introduce or update financial matters and to present questions or concerns for discussion in an open setting with peers.
Date: August 10, 2016 [Topic: Finding justification for standard of care charges; CRF Team]
Time: 11:00 am – 12:00pm
Location: MSB 2.135
Feel free to bring your lunch.
Registration is not required

Clinical Research Education Program
Objective: Promote excellence in clinical trial management for research nurses, study coordinators, and other research staff. This three day program focuses on clinical trial management, good clinical practice, and efficient trial conduct.
Date: October 4 – 6, 2016
Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Location: Cooley University Life Center
Register here.

Study Coordinator Monthly Forum
Objective: Discuss best practices in clinical research management and network with administrators and staff from various research groups within UTHealth. More information here.
Date: August 23, 2016 (Clinical Trials Xpress, Patricia Winger)
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Location: MSB 2.135
Lunch provided for the first 40 participants.
Registration is not required.

Orientation for Clinical Research Staff
Objective: Educate new clinical research personnel on clinical trial management, as well as IRB review and Memorial Hermann study start up processes. The program will lead into the Study Coordinator Forum.
Date: August 23, 2016
Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 pm
Location: MSB G.100
Registration is required. Register here.

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/ for more information.

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