12. CLINICAL RESEARCH UNIT SERVICES (CRUS)

**Objectives**

**Continue to Provide Exceptional Inpatient and Outpatient Clinical Research Unit Environments**
- Optimal management of resources and standardization of research procedures across sites
- Foster concurrent study implementation at multiple Clinical Research Unit and community sites
- Sustain exceptional environments through cost-sharing and cost-recovery strategies.

**Expand Geographic Settings for Participant-Centered Research**
- Expand the number of community outpatient CRU sites to support clinical research in concert with CTSC Urban Health Initiative
- Establish a Phase I Cancer Research Unit at the Seidman Cancer Center in support of the CTSC Translation 1 Initiative
- Implement capability to deploy Clinical Research Unit Services to venues in medical practices or the community in support of CTSC Urban Health Initiative

**Enhance Participant and Investigator Access to Clinical Research Unit Services (CRUS)**
- Expand participant recruitment resources for quicker enrollment; develop Recruitment Specialist role at each institutional site
- Adapt Clinical Research Unit Services in response to investigator needs based on satisfaction surveys
- Increase numbers of investigators using CRUS resources, especially junior investigators & trainees

**Build and Utilize Internal and External Collaborations**
- Enhance collaboration between the Clinical Research Unit Services and all CTSC Cores to respond to evolving research needs
- Represent Clinical Research Unit Services by participating in CTSA state, regional and national consortium activities

**Personnel**

- **Program Directors:** Patrick Catalano, MD, Serpil Erzurum, MD, Jackson T. Wright, Jr. MD, PhD
- **Associate Program Directors:** Lara Jehi, MD, MPH, W. H. Wilson Tang, MD
- **Administrative Directors:** Charlotte Bhasin, MOT, OTR/L, Megan Miller, MBA, Noreen Roman, MT(ASCP), MBA
- **Nurse Managers:** Lori Gullion, RN, Margaret Kelly, RN, MSN, Kay Steilmach, BSN, RN, RRT, CCRP
- **Lab Mgmt:** Jacquelyn Bjaloncik, MS, Clemencia Colmenares, PhD, Paul Hartman, MS, Teresa Markle, BS
- **Bio-Nutrition Manager:** Alicia Thomas, LD, RD, MS

**Notable Accomplishments in Grant Year 6**

- **Service to large number of investigators, projects and visits. In Year 6, the Clinical Research Units served 375 protocols and 693 investigators while providing 9,203 outpatient visits and 401 inpatient days.**
- **CRUS resources were leveraged across partner institutions to aid successful study completion. “Local multi-site” studies were enabled through the newly created IRB Hub accounting for twenty-four (24) protocols conducted in two or more Cleveland CTSC CRU sites (Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, and University Hospitals).**
- **Operational efficiencies and cost containment attained through the centralization of analytical laboratory services at University Hospitals.**
- **In 2012, the Phase I Cancer Research Unit at UH Seidman Cancer Center (made fully operational in June 2011) provided 1,481 hours of outpatient research support services to protocols involving 168 participants.**
- **With Community Research Partnerships, CRUS personnel were deployed to ad hoc community research sites at 22 Cleveland Public schools for pre- and post-intervention blood pressure measurements on over 300 children for NIH funded studies.**
- **Pooled study coordinators provided 1,350 research visits at nine community-based sites over the last six months.**
- **Bionutrition benefited 19 studies, providing 8,800 meals, performing 5,000 anthropometric measurements during 1,873 patient encounters. Serving community-based projects, the team averaged 400 staff hours/month and supervised 30 dietician students.**
- **CRUS expanded collaboration with other CTSC cores, particularly with Community Research Partnerships, Practice-Based Research Networks, and the Office of Bioethics. The Director of Clinical Studies Resources and Training [Ms Charlotte Bhasin] formed a multi-core, multi-institutional planning committee, resulting in a productive retreat, “Partners in Research Resources”, with 75 personnel (January 25, 2013). The retreat generated ideas for strategically leveraging resources to aid study completion, despite tight resources and funding. Ideas harvested will be used to develop initiatives for the coming year.**