Clinical and Translational Research Unit (CTRU) Facility Resource List

The University of Georgia and Augusta University/UGA Medical Partnership Clinical and Translational Research Unit (CTRU) is located on the Health Sciences Campus in Athens, Georgia. The CTRU is designed to support faculty from across the university in conducting clinical and translational research that advance our understanding and treatment of important diseases in Georgia and throughout the country. The CTRU provides key research and nursing personnel and dedicated space to conduct clinical trials, as well as access to research core facilities at UGA (e.g., Bioimaging Center, Georgia Genomics Facility) and at Emory University (e.g., Biomarker Core, Proteomics Core).

CTRU resources and services include:

**Clinical Research Support Services** provide investigators with experienced clinical research staff and space (3,600 sq. ft.) for research with human subjects. The CTRU has three outpatient research rooms, phlebotomy/vitals area, private rooms with computers for consenting study subjects and completing online questionnaires, and office space for investigators to utilize while they are in the unit. In addition, a large conference room with video conferencing capabilities is available for research team or group study subject meetings. Research staff may provide support services outside of the CTRU throughout the university, local community and state. The unit supports REDCap for research data capture and management.

Study subject **Recruitment and Screening Services** provide trained personnel to complete telephone and email screenings of individuals to determine basic study eligibility and invitation to schedule the initial study visit. Investigators schedule and manage CTRU study visits through an electronic patient management system (GaCTSA CR-Assist).

The **Core Laboratory** is fully equipped to process and store blood and other study samples. After processing, study samples may be stored short or longer-term, and sent to investigator, core or commercial facilities for analytical and genetic analyses. Routine biomedical assays are completed at Athens Regional Medical Center. The laboratory is equipped with a refrigerated centrifuge and microcentrifuge, lab refrigerator, freezers (-20° C & -80° C), and analytical balances. The unit employs the GaCTSA-wide state-of-the art Nautilus Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for de-identified sample storage and management.

For **Exercise Physiology** studies the unit is equipped with four exercise treadmills and a stairclimber. Heart rate monitors are available for study subjects to wear during exercise studies. A metabolic measurement system (ParvoMedics TrueOne 2400) is available for cardiopulmonary stress testing, indirect calorimetry, and maximal O2 consumption measurements.

The **Metabolic Kitchen** supports study meal preparation/controlled study diets and includes a full-size refrigerator and freezer, two stainless steel prep tables, small appliances and tools for food preparation (e.g., microwave, digital food scale, blender, etc.), along with a storage area for food.

For **Bone & Body Composition** evaluation the unit provides anthropometric measurements of bone density, bone geometry and body composition utilizing dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) (Horizon 2000), peripheral quantitative computed tomography (Stratec XCT 3000 Scanner), and bioelectrical impedance (InBody 770 Body Composition Analyzer).

For **Cardiovascular Testing**, the unit is equipped to conduct resting and stress test EKGs and spirometry (Welch Allyn CardioPerfect), and can do ultrasound imaging (Terason uSmart 3300) for the assessment of flow mediated dilatation and carotid artery intimal medial thickness.

The unit provides **Research Design and Biostatistical** support to investigators for assistance with study design, measurement methods and data analysis.

**Pilot Study Seed Grants** are provided on a competitive basis to support individual investigators and interdisciplinary research teams to generate preliminary data to enhance a specific external grant proposal or required data for meeting reviewer recommendations for a grant resubmission.

**Regulatory Science Services** assist investigators with registering and updating their trails on ClinicalTrials.gov.

**Community-Based Research and Engagement Services** assist investigators with protocol development and conduct of research through the state through the university’s outreach network (i.e., Cooperative Extension Service, Archway Program).

The CTRU is part of the **Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute** (ACTSI) which provides additional resources to support clinical and translational research and education (see link <http://www.actsi.org/>). CTRU and ACTSI research services will soon be available through RAPID (Request and Progress Information Database).