UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Ophthalmic Clinical Trials & Translational Center

Illinois Eye
AND EAR INFIRMARY

OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

University of Illinois
Hospital & Health Sciences System
Changing medicine. For good.
OPHTHALMIC CLINICAL TRIALS & TRANSLATIONAL CENTER

The UIC Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences established the Ophthalmic Clinical Trials & Translational Center (OCTTC) to provide services in clinical trials and translational research that evaluate preventive, therapeutic, and diagnostic interventions in ophthalmic disease. The center offers a new model for dedicated clinical trial support services which provides personalized clinical trial patient care, cutting-edge equipment and ophthalmic lanes, and a platform for clinician-scientists to launch new trials and studies.

Under the direction of Joelle Hallak, PhD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, the OCTTC streamlines research operations and enhances the performance of clinical trials to provide patients diagnosed with the most difficult and complex ophthalmic diseases an opportunity for new promising treatments.

The OCTTC supports all stages of clinical trial research, from award to study close.

Services include:

- Site application
- Coverage analysis
- Budget and contract negotiations
- IRB preparation and submission
- Investigator Meeting representation
- Site initiation visit
- Training for all support staff
- Patient identification and recruitment strategies
- Patient screening and ongoing clinical visit coordination
- Sponsor conference call and monitor visit representation
- Medication storage and oversight
- Laboratory specimen collection and shipping
- Study exam procedures
- Ongoing guidance for all department PIs
- Patient randomization procedures
- eCRF and regulatory maintenance
- Study closeout procedures

*Current studies (updated 10/18/2017)*
The three main arms of service at the OCTTC are:

- Full service clinical trials suite
- Translational research
- Data and statistics

One clinical research coordinator (CRC) is assigned to each trial or study. The CRC is responsible for running the day-to-day research services which include: (i) budget and contract negotiations; (ii) IRB preparation and submission; (iii) coverage analysis; (iv) patient recruitment strategies, examinations and data collection; (v) intellectual property and commercialization consulting, and (vi) regulatory and oversight support to first in human studies.

Prior to each patient visit the CRC works with clinical staff and investigators to schedule necessary clinical procedures; and during the study visit, the CRC accompanies the patient throughout his or her time in the clinic while ensuring study protocol requirements are met. This enhanced standard of care allows for a higher quality patient experience and also increases the attention to detail and compliance, which are critical to study results.

**FULL SERVICE CLINICAL TRIALS SUITE**

In addition to the most advanced imaging technology available for clinical research, the OCTTC is equipped with lanes dedicated to clinical trial examinations, including:

- Slit lamp with photography
- M&S Visual Acuity System
- ETDRS Visual Acuity System (Light Box)
- Electronic Visual Acuity System (EVA)
- Keratography
- Lipiview
- Tear Osmolarity Test
- Pneumotonometer
DATA AND STATISTICS

The OCTTC also provides data and statistical support for investigator-initiated studies.

Statistical services include:

- Epidemiological and biostatistical design and analyses spanning the entire biomedical research spectrum
- Statistical programming involving data management, design/construction of databases, and analyses

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Clinical research has played an important role in the discovery and development of new drugs, treatments, and medical devices that have improved the lives of many. Translational research is the process in which basic science findings in a laboratory are taken and used in practice by physicians.

The OCTTC supports the department’s clinical researchers in preparing for and implementing translational research, including:

- Intellectual property and commercialization consulting
- Regulatory and oversight support to first in human studies

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