



# Clinical and Translational Science Institute

*Accelerating Discoveries Toward Better Health*

**Researcher Welcome Packet**

**[CTSI.UCLA.EDU](http://CTSI.UCLA.EDU)**



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Dear Colleague:

Welcome to the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center site of the University of California Los Angeles Clinical and Translational Research Institute (UCLA CTSI). This packet will introduce you to the vast number of resources that the UCLA CTSI has to offer and our local research facilitator, Jerlyn Tolentino, who can help you access these resources.

Cedars-Sinai is proud to be one of the partnering institutes of the UCLA CTSI. The CTSI was established to provide support for clinical and translational science, education, training, and infrastructure through the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). The CTSA is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), National Institutes of Health, through Grant UL1TR000124.

Our CTSI is a partnership between UCLA, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, LA Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Our mission is to create a borderless collaborative clinical and translational research program among the participating institutions and to move translational findings back to the communities we serve.

Our CTSI offers a variety of resources that may be valuable to researchers at Cedars-Sinai and our partner institutes:

- clinical research support from the [Clinical and Translational Research Center](#) (previously GCRC)
- [community engagement and research programs](#) (CERP)
- [funding opportunities](#)
- a voucher program to help researchers utilize [core laboratory services](#)
- consultation for [research project planning and design](#)
- assistance with [navigating the research regulatory environment](#)
- [bioethics consultations](#)
- assistance with [biostatistics and designing research databases](#)
- [research education and training programs](#) to train researchers at pre-doctoral and post-doctoral levels

CTSI resources are easily accessed [online](#) or in person through the [CTSI Office of Investigator Services](#) (OIS). Our research facilitator **Jerlyn Tolentino, MA** will help you navigate through the various CTSI resources and experts. She can be reached at **(310) 423-2475** or [jerlyn.tolentino@cshs.org](mailto:jerlyn.tolentino@cshs.org). We invite you to take advantage of these resources as you plan, develop, conduct, and publish your research.

Sincerely,

Leslie J. Raffel, M.D.  
CTSI CSMC Site Program Director

Ruchi Mathur, M.D.  
Assistant Program Director, CSMC CTRC

# Office of Investigator Services (OIS)

## Research Facilitation

Research facilitators offer a single point-of-service to help researchers from each partner institution and the community easily identify and access the CTSI's vast support resources and services.

Our research facilitators are available to:

- Assist inexperienced researchers navigate through the nuts and bolts of initiating and executing a study (e.g. discussing formats and sections for protocols, data tools, managing data, locating needed data resources)
- Provide information about CTSI Funding Programs
- Match researcher needs to core services
- Link researchers across disciplines and institutions
- Answer general questions about the CTSI

Our research facilitators are available for in-person, telephone, or e-mail consultations. We are ready to offer suggestions to investigators as they proceed with study design, proposal writing, and project implementation. We are prepared to establish an ongoing support relationship with every investigator who seeks our assistance.

## Contacts

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*For more information OIS services  
please visit:*

*[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/support/  
pages/ois](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/support/pages/ois)*

# Services and Resources Overview

Support programs and related resources are essential to providing the infrastructure to conduct research. The CTSI provides a collection of resources and services to assist researchers throughout the protocol lifecycle, from seed funds to promote translational research, to protocol design and development, through implementation, compliance, and publication of results. Please click on the links for a brief description of available resources.

Planning your Study	Conducting your Study	Completing Your Study
<a href="#"><u>Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies Program</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies Program</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Analyzing Results</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Rapid Response Team</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Community Engagement in Research Program (CERP)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Publishing</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Research Design and Biostatistics</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Center for Translational Technologies (Core Laboratory Services)</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Biomedical Informatics Program</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC)</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Regulatory Knowledge and Support</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Regulatory Support and Knowledge</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Research Ethics Consultation Service</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Research Ethics Consultation Service</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Research Education, Training, and Career Development</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Research Design and Data Management</u></a>	

# Planning and Conducting Your Study

## Pilot and Collaborative Translational and Clinical Studies Program

This program encourages the assembly of new transdisciplinary teams among senior and junior investigators; provides seed funding, fosters collaborations among basic, clinical and community researchers; and provides funding for development of novel methodologies.

CTSI funding mechanisms include:

**Multi-PI Team Science Awards:** Up to \$200,000 over one to two years for multidisciplinary, cross-institutional, translational science leading to a proposal under such team-science mechanisms as PO1, U54, and center grants.

**Catalyst Awards:** \$1,000-\$5,000 to support seminar series, team-building activities and pilot studies and other activities to encourage translational team science.

**Scholar Awards:** Up to \$30,000 in seed funds for junior faculty.

*For more information and current funding opportunities please visit:*

[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/  
opportunities/pages/](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/opportunities/pages/)

## Rapid Response Team

The UCLA CTSI Rapid Response Team (RRT) initiates and supports research and collaboration for grant development with a special emphasis on Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER). RRT services include e-mail updates for CER and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funding opportunities, outreach to involve all CTSI campuses on collaborative research projects, brainstorming sessions for faculty interested in forming collaborative teams, and a secure online workspace for grant preparation.

*For more information about the RRT please visit:*

[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/  
support/pages/rrt](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/support/pages/rrt)

# Planning and Conducting Your Study

## Research Design and Biostatistics

The UCLA CTSI has a team of biostatisticians and faculty members experienced in study design, data management, and data analysis. Our team of experts can provide CTSI investigators with the integrated services and biostatistical support needed to conduct research in our diverse community setting. Our team can also provide CTSI investigators and their community and clinical collaborators with instruction on research methodologies.

Basic services include:

- (1) data analysis methodology consultation, implementation, and epidemiology expertise;
- (2) sample size and power estimation;
- (3) clinical data management software;
- (4) study design and grant preparation assistance;
- (5) data analysis.

*For more information about  
biostatistics and study design  
support please visit:*

*[The CTSI Biostatistics and  
Computational Biology Program](#)*

*Or*

*[The CSMC Biostatistics and  
Bioinformatics Research Center](#)*

## Biomedical Informatics Program (BIP)

The Biomedical Informatics Program is composed of information technology specialists from each of the four CTSI partner institutions to provide and manage shared IT and informatics resources.

BIP can provide the following support to CTSI investigators:

- (1) Computerized tools, systems, underlying connectivity, and computer security to support translational research;
- (2) Assistance with complex databases;
- (3) Servers for temporary storage of large data sets;
- (4) Access to various local systems, data, knowledge, and experts in electronic medical records systems, clinical trial management systems, research data repository, and biospecimen repositories.

*For more information about  
BIP please visit:*

*[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/  
about/pages/bip2](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/about/pages/bip2)*

# Planning and Conducting Your Study

## Regulatory Support and Knowledge

Regulatory Support and Knowledge assists investigators in ensuring that research is in full regulatory compliance and meets the highest quality assurance standards. The main goal of the Regulatory Support and Knowledge Program is to build integrity into clinical and translational research programs, promote responsible conduct, and help investigators meet their regulatory responsibilities by establishing a CTSI program in which ethical values serve as the driver of regulatory knowledge and support. An IRB reliance agreement between the four partner institutions allows for the other institutions to rely on the review of one of the IRBs. This IRB “harmonization” promotes a more collaborative environment and simplifies and expedites the IRB review process between institutions.

*For more information, please visit:  
The [CTSI Regulatory Support Website](#)  
or [The CSMC IRB Website](#)*

## Research Ethics Consultation Service

The ethics consultation office focuses on emerging ethical issues in clinical translational research where clear regulatory standards or professional points of agreement concerning the conduct of research may be lacking. The research ethics consultation service provides CTSI investigators with convenient access to high-level specialists with the knowledge and expertise required to manage ethical issues in translational research. The research ethics office also provides expanded educational opportunities in research ethics for clinical and translational scientists, young investigators, and trainees.

*For more information please contact:  
  
Dr. Stuart Finder  
  
(310) 423-9638 or [stuart.finder@cshs.org](mailto:stuart.finder@cshs.org)*

# Planning and Conducting Your Study

## Research, Education, Training and Career Development

The CTSI Education, Training, and Career Development program houses most of our education and training activities. It ensures CTSI trainees acquire the core competencies needed to conduct community-participatory, multidisciplinary and other types of clinical research across the translational research spectrum. Click on the program names to learn more.

Programs include:

### [CTSI Training Program in Translational Science](#)

#### [TL1 Translational Science Fellowship](#)

- [Pre-Doctoral Fellowship](#)
- [Summer Fellowship for Professional Students in Medical, Nursing, and Dental Fields](#)

#### [KL2 Translational Science Scholar Program](#)

*For more information, please  
visit:*

[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/about/  
pages/ced](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/about/pages/ced)



# Planning and Conducting Your Study

## Community Engagement in Research Program (CERP)

CERP is the primary link to our diverse Los Angeles community. It strengthens and builds strong bi-directional partnerships that help CTSI scientists identify research relevant to community needs. CERP builds community capacity to engage in research; communicates research findings; serves as a point of contact for community health care providers and facilitates opportunities for health services and comparative effectiveness research.

*For more information about  
CERP, please visit:*

*[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/about/  
pages/cer](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/about/pages/cer)*

## Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC)

The CTRC's support and supervise human studies and clinical trials. They build on our prior GCRCs to include flexible, mobile research units that bring scientific teams to our population. They provide nursing, laboratory, bio-nutrition, clinical research management, and clinical education and training opportunities.

*For more information about  
CTRC services, please visit:*

*[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/  
research/pages/ctrc](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/research/pages/ctrc)*

# Planning and Conducting Your Study

## Center for Translational Technologies (Core laboratory services)

The CTT links scientific teams with core technologies at CSMC, UCLA-Westwood, and LA Bio-med at Harbor-UCLA. It provides online access to a diverse array of existing cores; supports development of new technologies; provides personalized counseling to help investigators select and use cores; and facilitates multidisciplinary collaborations and networking.

Available support: Investigators can apply for up to \$10,000 in vouchers for the use of approved core services at CTSI partner institutions.

### Cedars-Sinai Core Lab Services

Preclinical Biobehavioral Core

Mouse Genetics Core

Flow Cytometry Core

RMI iPSC Core

Tissue Culture Core

Viral Vector Core

Genomics Core

Confocal Core

BIRI Research Imaging Core

Two Photon Imaging Core

Molecular Therapeutics Core

Biobank/Biorepository Core

*For more information about core  
lab services, please visit:*

*[http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/  
research/pages/lab-research-  
facilities](http://www.ctsi.ucla.edu/research/pages/lab-research-facilities)*

# Completing Your Study

## Analyzing Your Data

The UCLA CTSI team of biostatistics experts can help you analyze your data:

- Plan, direct, interpret, and report any interim analysis, and advise on changes
- Plan, direct, interpret and report the final data analysis
- Present and explain analytic results to co-investigators and project team
- Design and direct preparation of tables and publication graphs
- Collaborate in writing papers, abstracts and presentations
- Review data accuracy and interpretation of inferential statistics in all reports of study methods and results
- Respond to journal referees with written comments and additional data analysis

*For more information about biostatistics and study design support please visit:*

[The CTSI Biostatistics and Computational Biology Program](#)

*Or*

[The CSMC Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Research Center](#)

## CTSI Publication Policy

Use of CTSI resources of any kind comes with several responsibilities as directed by our funding agency, the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) at the NIH. In particular, please be sure to acknowledge the CTSI grant in all publications resulting from research supported in whole or in part by the CTSI.

***"The project described was supported by the National Center for Research Resources, Grant UL1RR033176, and is now at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Grant UL1TR000124. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH."***

# UCLA CTSI Leadership

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# UCLA CTSI Leadership

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**If you have questions about who to contact for CTSI services, please contact:  
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