What is GHUCCTS?

A consortium of five institutions with the mission to improve human health through research.

Member Institutions:

Georgetown University
Howard University
MedStar Health Research Institute
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Washington Veterans Affairs Medical Center

For more information, please visit www.georgetownhowardctsa.org or contact

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The goal of the Community Engagement and Research (CER) component is to develop a program of community-centered collaboration. CER seeks to increase the quality and quantity of research performed in community based settings by strengthening the ability of communities and researchers to serve as partners in collaborative research endeavors. CER activities help to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers that may prevent many people from taking part in research. CER also assures that GHUCCTS research reflects the needs of the local community. CER helps to keep communities informed about ongoing research activities and results of completed projects.

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Study Design & Biostatistics

The goal of Design, Biostatistics & Population Studies (DBPS) component is to provide integrated infrastructure for the design and conduct of research that is innovative and statistically sound with a particular emphasis on studies in diverse populations. To achieve this goal, the DBPS provides high quality methodological support to clinical and basic science investigators throughout the research lifecycle, integrating quality science and cutting edge methodology; in collaboration with the RETCD Component, it also educates and certifies investigators and their research staff to increase their knowledge and expertise in study design and research methods; it develops new methods and approaches to extend and improve DBPS capabilities to address the needs of translational research.

Clinical Research

The Participant and Clinical Interaction Resources (PCIR) is the component which provides facilities and resources to enable investigators to successfully conduct their clinical research. It is committed to using its capabilities in order to foster collaborative research efforts in the Washington, DC region. The cornerstone of the activities of the PCIR is the four Clinical Research Units and the Scientific Evaluation and Prioritization Committee (SEP/COM). Our Clinical Research Units (CRUs) based at Georgetown University and Howard University provide specialized inpatient and outpatient institutional resources which allow clinical and translational investigators to observe and study human physiology as well as study and treat disease with innovative approaches. In addition, flexible outpatient CRUs operate through MHRI and the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center (WDCVAMC). With research nursing and laboratory support, the MedStar CRU provides support to clinical investigators throughout the MedStar Health System, including the National Rehabilitation Hospital, the Washington Hospital Center, and the multiple outpatient research facilities of MHRI. Similarly, the VA CRU supports clinical investigators throughout the Washington DC VAMC. The CRUs do not fund specific research projects, but provide infrastructure and support in the form of inpatient beds, outpatient services, staff and core equipment necessary to conduct studies. They can also be used to support other hypothesis-based research and can be available for industry-sponsored research at cost.

Novel Translational Methodologies

The overall goal of the Novel Translational Methodologies (NTM) component is to speed the development and application of new technologies that will improve the health and well-being of our population. The expertise within the GHUCCTS provides the capacity to apply this knowledge to understanding the pathogenesis of disease states, development of new techniques to diagnose disease, and the discovery of novel methods for the prevention and treatment of disease (type 1 translation). In addition, its unique strength in population studies, health policy, and decision-making positions it to develop novel methodologies to assess the potential impact of resource allocation into specific areas on the downstream benefits to our community (type 2 translation). GHUCCTS accomplishes these goals by capitalizing upon a strong partnership that we have developed with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in order to develop innovative and truly transformational translational methodologies. NTM will ensure future progress in the development of new methodologies in clinical and translational science by establishing training and mentoring programs to promote the development of a cadre of investigators focusing on research in this area.

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Pilot Studies

The overall goal of the Pilot & Collaborative Studies Program (P CSP) component is to promote and speed the on-going transformation of clinical and translational science throughout the partnership. It does so by promoting and supporting the development of health-relevant interdisciplinary and collaborative clinical and translational science through pilot studies that are comprehensively integrated with the capabilities/components of the GHUCCTS; and assuring that funded pilot projects are both efficient and effective through rigorous monitoring/evaluation and through rapid dissemination to scientific, clinical, policy, and advocacy audiences, as well the public, thereby facilitating their impact on human health.

Regulatory and Ethics

The mission and goals of the Regulatory, Ethics, Knowledge and Support (REKS) component are to advance the application of ethical principles to the design and implementation of translational research, promote and support ethical and compliant research through personal and electronic support systems, encourage and assist institutional collaborations, promote the protection of human and animal subjects and facilitate translational research. The emphasis of REKS is on promoting and preserving the integrity of the research, the researcher and the research enterprise, preserving the trust between the public and the research enterprise, and the public trust in the fruits of the research process.

Research Education

The goal of the Research Education, Training and Career Development (RETCDE) component is to train undergraduate, graduate, medical, allied health professionals and others with specific interests and a career focus on clinical translational sciences. RETCDE programs encompass mechanistic and translational, clinical and community research, health policy research, management and health care delivery. RETCDE establishes new and innovative educational programs and recruit, train and mentor a spectrum of trainees who will become the next generation of individuals to further clinical and translational research in the next decade through team based science. Multiple training opportunities have been developed to accommodate trainees from different disciplines and different stages in their academic development.

Evaluation

The goal of the Tracking and Evaluation (TE) component is to provide credible and timely feedback on the growth and impact of the project on clinical and translational science research and training across GHUCCTS, as a whole, and specifically within each of the core components. TE undertakes a mixed-methods approach to evaluation design and utilizes a variety of data collection (e.g., web data, interviews, administrative records, community survey(s) and reporting [e.g., dashboards] methods. All TE activities are carried out in accordance with the American Evaluation Association’s Guiding Principles for Evaluators and the Joint Committee’s Program Evaluation Standards.

Shared Resources

The Translational Technologies and Resources (TRR) component is comprised of outstanding researchers who contribute their expertise to benefit the development and management of shared research services. TRR and its research experts continue to provide excellent research equipment, capacity and services to the consortium research community. The TRR Directors strive to achieve the most efficient use of excellent clinical and basic science “state-of-the-art” technologies available for researchers through GHUCCTS. Some available resources include population and behavioral science services such as community outreach and recruitment services and others include molecular and cellular resources such as mass spectrometry, biostatistics and informatics, electron microscopy, genomics, epigenomics, flow cytometry and imaging (microscopy, MR, IMS).