



Enhanced Support for Multicenter Clinical Trial Planning and Execution

The School of Medicine encourages Washington University (WU) faculty to pursue the most challenging and innovative clinical research, and continues to add to its support for faculty who aspire to conduct investigator-initiated clinical trials.

In a collaborative effort between the Center for Clinical Studies (CCS) and the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS), the Trial-CARE (Trial Coordination, Acceleration, & Recruitment Enhancement) Center provides specialized expertise and trial implementation support, with a particular focus on enabling the funding and completion of high-impact multicenter clinical trials.

The Trial-CARE support team provides free consultations to investigators and research teams to help them plan, initiate, and successfully complete challenging clinical studies. After each initial consultation, faculty members receive formal recommendations from an expert support team on key steps that can be taken to move their project forward efficiently, ranging from guidance on getting funded, rapidly starting a study, and overcoming real-world barriers to trial conduct. Faculty subsequently receive active Trial-CARE assistance in developing study organization plans, addressing regulatory issues, developing budgets, interacting with sponsors, and building well-targeted recruitment plans. In addition, for applicable studies, Trial-CARE offers full trial coordination services in flexible models of partnership with Department-based study teams and investigators. The Trial-CARE team is facile with studies that are funded by either NIH or industry.

To date, Trial-CARE has provided initial consultations to over 45 WU investigator teams, of whom many continue to receive ongoing support during trial conduct. This includes several high-impact multicenter trials for which Trial-CARE partners with Department-based faculty to deliver full trial coordination that encompasses all aspects of study start-up and implementation. Peer-to-peer guidance and mentorship are also provided to faculty seeking U-award funding from the NIH.

We encourage faculty to take advantage of this resource. If you are interested in this program or would like to have an initial consultation, please reach out to our Fast Track Coordinator, Heather Wilkins at Trialcare@wustl.edu.

Sincerely,

Suresh Vedantham, MD
Assistant Dean for Clinical Research Medical Director, Center for Clinical Studies
Washington University School of Medicine

Yi Zhang, JD, RN
Assistant Dean for Clinical Research
Administrative Director, Center for Clinical Studies
Washington University School of Medicine