The UNC Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) has expanded from the UNC General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) and is still one of the very first facilities of its kind, having received its initial funding from the NIH in 1960. Now, in grant year 51, this Center represents one of only a handful of GCRCs that have received continuous support from the NIH since the very inception of the Program. The new CTRC combines the old GCRC, NCTraCS and two patient services locations. The Burnett-Womack location, adjacent to the main hospital, houses clinic facilities: nursing and phlebotomy support and 15 exam rooms available Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. The UNC Memorial Hospital location provides clinic facilities: Intensive nursing support and phlebotomy services, 10 outpatient exams rooms and 10 inpatient rooms are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This location also offers a Research Subject Advocacy office, a Hispanic Outreach program, and, upon request, offers Biostatistical assistance and a Bionutrition core. Both facilities are equipped with specimen processing labs and equipment, -80 degree freezers and limited storage areas for study supplies. Center staff assists with the preparation of the IRB application, CTRC addendum, sponsor regulatory package, Investigational Drug Service request, budget negotiation, Office of Clinical Trials request form, and internal budget and internal processing forms.

At present, the CTRC UNC Memorial Hospital location is a modern, renovated 11,000 square foot inpatient-outpatient facility that occupies the entire third floor of the Bed Tower section of UNC Hospital in the very heart of the Medical Center. The south side is the Inpatient Facility which includes a spacious, centrally-placed nursing station and 10 private inpatient rooms, each of which is available to UNC investigators on a 24-hours/day, 7 days/week schedule. The north side of the CTRC is the Outpatient Facility, which consists of a reception area, a nurses’ station, an area used for the measurement of height, weight, and vital signs, a phlebotomy/blood processing room, six private, fully-equipped examination rooms, and one small consultation room, an IV infusion room, and a waiting/dining room. The inpatient and outpatient rooms are contiguous which allows maximum flexibility in scheduling and staffing.

In addition to the inpatient and outpatient facilities, the CTRC makes a number of other resources available to all UNC investigators. These resources include:

* A consultation service that includes both a biostatistician and an epidemiologist. Both of these individuals are faculty members in our internationally recognized School of Public Health, and each has regular office hours on the CTRC. The biostatistician, Dr. Paul Stewart, has been instrumental in the development of the statistical plans for our investigators. The CTRC epidemiologist, Dr. David Weber, is a world-renown infectious diseases expert who also serves as the Director of Educational Activities for the CTRC.
* A core research laboratory, which provides specimen processing and storage and conducts a variety of sophisticated analyses including a mass spectrometry facility.
* A state-of-the-art computer facility staffed by a full-time Informative Core Director. A full-time computer systems manager (Mr. Clarence Potter) has created a local area network (CTRCnet) on the CTRC. This network makes available to all CTRC investigators an extensive array of both hardware and software. Furthermore, through existing high-speed connections within the School of Medicine Information Network (SOMIN), our computer center is easily accessible to investigators from throughout the medical center and UNC campus as well as from more distant sites.
* Research Subject Advocate Office. This office provides on-site oversight of all CTRC protocols from the perspective of subject safety. The office provides guidance to investigators in formulating safety-monitoring plans that are now required for all CTRC studies, as well as spot audits of the consenting process and investigator records.

The UNC CTRC is staffed by a dedicated and thoroughly professional group of individuals. The CTRC nurses, the informatics core director, the biostatistician, the clinical epidemiologist, and the program directors all work together as a team to ensure that each aspect of clinical investigation-from the design of the study to the conduct of the research, analysis of the data, and reports of the results-is carried out with utmost care and attention to every detail to ensure the safe and effective conduct of all aspects of our human investigation. In addition, the CTRC nursing staff does everything possible to make certain that each protocol is conducted in compliance with all aspects of human subjects regulations. As with each CTRC, our center recently received approval from NCRR to establish an Office for Research Subject Advocacy (RSA).

*Updated: 1/28/21*