

CTRU@HSC

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What is a CTRU?

- Clinical & Translational Research Unit
- Research that transforms scientific discoveries to practical applications that improve health
- Campus-wide shared-use resource that supports investigators in the design, initiation, conduct, and reporting of clinical and translational research
 - Personnel (study manager, phlebotomist, pharmacist, nurse, biostatistician, etc.)
 - Space/Facilities (laboratory, interview, analysis, storage, outreach, meetings, etc.)
 - Core Capabilities (nutritional, biostatistical, genetic assay, neuroimaging, etc.)

Why should UGA want a CTRU?

- Central investment in such a shared-use resource is critical for growing funding of clinical and translational research
- This increased funding would then support the operation of a CTRU
- NIH must see this level of support before considering CTSA (Clinical & Translational Science Award) funding
- Comparator and aspirational peer institutions with medical research support clinical and translational research this way

Why should UGA want a CTRU?

- UGA has pockets of clinical research, both biomedical and psychosocial
- Early attempt to provide central support through CTSO in OVPR
- As GRU-UGA Medical Partnership grows its research base, a CTRU would help
- New Health Sciences Campus provides opportunities for location of CTRU (small pilot CTRU is in planning at HSC)
- Faculty recruitment/retention

Who will take advantage of CTRU?

- College of Pharmacy (e.g., clinical aspects of drug development)
- GRU-UGA Medical Partnership (e.g., clinical biomedical research)
- College of Veterinary Medicine (e.g., clinical vet med)
- College of Family & Consumer Science (e.g., nutrition)
- College of Education (e.g., allied health; health professions education)
- College of Public Health (e.g., allied health)
- Owens Institute of Behavioral Research (e.g., social and behavioral interventions)
- Biomedical & Health Sciences Institute (e.g., clinical biomedicine, neurosciences)
- Obesity Initiative (e.g., behavioral, treatment studies)
- Department of Psychology (e.g., clinical neuroimaging)
- Grady College of Journalism ... (e.g., health communications)
- College of Engineering (e.g., translational research)
- School of Social Work (e.g., socioeconomic outcomes)

Why would CTRU be successful at UGA?

- Strong basic (biomedical) science core + applied core of faculty = perfect synergy for translational science
- Obesity Initiative is already a strong linking mechanism among faculty across campus
- UGA has strong presence across the state, strong ties with diverse communities; mechanism for translational impact
- GRU-UGA Medical Partnership in early growth phase, with opportunities to shape its future
- Existing programs in clinical psychology and social work are already oriented toward intervention research that can be immediately leveraged
- Developing College of Engineering to help with translational aspects
- UGA is uniquely positioned to address the need for coordinated clinical research in the allied health disciplines – “the therapies” – which are currently spread among multiple colleges, schools, and departments at UGA and at GRU

How goes the planning for CTRU?

- CTRO was created in OVPR ca. 2010; much discussion about CTRU possibility
- Phase V of HSC renovations had small space for Obesity Initiative that could have been start
- Business case working group is conducting survey and cost-benefit analysis
- GRU-UGA Medical Partnership has obtained permission to renovate the former Navy Child Care Center into a “pilot” (phase 0) CTRU
- Development would be phased with ROI assessment at each phase

Health Sciences Campus



Relevance to Health Extension

- Land-grant universities already have a model for translating research outcomes into practice: the CES
- UGA in particular has expanded this model through public service partnerships
- Our existing statewide network will facilitate health extension supported by a CTRU
- Recent emphasis on medical education and public health provides impetus for this development