Clinical Research Nurse (CRN) Collaborative Newsletter

Fall 2023 Edition

Website: https://www.mghpcs.org/munncenter/CRN/asp

Who We Are:

The MGH Clinical Research Nurse Collaborative aims to **connect and empower CRNs** at MGH while **facilitating collaboration and integration** with the greater MGH community.

The CRN Collaborative meets the 2nd Monday, every other month in 2024: February, April, June, August, October,& December.

Please contact cngrant@mgh.harvard.edu if CRN Collaborative meetings are not in your calendar.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Members of the MGH CRN Collaborative, Katie Fitch and Amy Sabean, and Boston College DNP Students Shanyse Lingham and Carole Malloch, presented their work on the development of an orientation for Clinical Research Nurses at the 15th Annual International Association of Clinical Research Nursing conference in Philadelphia.
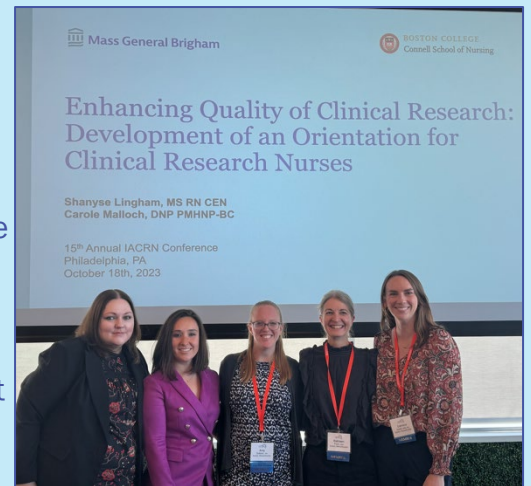
Pictured above (Left to right): Carole Malloch, Shanyse Lingham, Amy Sabean, Katie Fitch, Catriona Grant
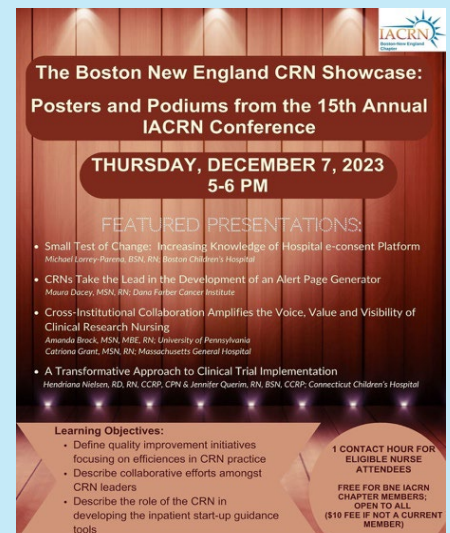
UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday December 4th, 12-1pm
Register Here

> **CRN Collaborative Journal Club:**
> *Transitioning to the clinical research nurse role—a qualitative descriptive study*
>
> December 4th, 2023 12-1pm; Zoom

Thursday December 7th, 5-6pm
Register Here

The Boston New England CRN Showcase: Posters and Podiums from the 15th Annual IACRN Conference

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 5-6 PM

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS:
- Small Test of Change: Increasing Knowledge of Hospital e-consent Platform *Michael Lowry-Parena, BSN, RN; Boston Children's Hospital*
- CRNs Take the Lead in the Development of an Alert Page Generator *Maura Dacey, MSN, RN; Dana Farber Cancer Institute*
- Cross-Institutional Collaboration Amplifies the Voice, Value and Visibility of Clinical Research Nursing *Amanda Brock, MSN, MBE, RN; University of Pennsylvania Catriona Grant, MSN, RN; Massachusetts General Hospital*
- A Transformative Approach to Clinical Trial Implementation *Hendriana Nielsen, RD, RN, CCRP, CPN & Jennifer Querim, RN, BSN, CCRP; Connecticut Children's Hospital*

Learning Objectives:
- Define quality improvement initiatives focusing on efficiencies in CRN practice
- Describe collaborative efforts amongst CRN leaders
- Describe the role of the CRN in developing the inpatient start-up guidance tools

1 CONTACT HOUR FOR ELIGIBLE NURSE ATTENDEES

FREE FOR BNE IACRN CHAPTER MEMBERS; OPEN TO ALL ($10 FEE IF NOT A CURRENT MEMBER)

Clinical Research Nurse Spotlight

By Alison McManus J., CNP, FNP-BC, CPI
CTRU Clinical Research Nurse Manager/
Principal Investigator

Tucked away in a corner of the Charlestown Navy Yard is a new, state-of-the-art Clinical Research Center focused on the prevention, management, and cure of complex brain disorders.

About the Clinical and Translation Research Unit (CTRU):

Opened in February of 2022, The Clinical and Translational Research Unit (CTRU) at Massachusetts General Hospital is a multidisciplinary clinical research facility co-located in the Charlestown Navy Yard with the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging. The mission of the CTRU is to transform clinical research to accelerate progress in the prevention, management, and cure of complex brain disorders like Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, mood and anxiety disorders.

The CTRU is utilized by over 40 independent investigators in the Mass General research and clinical communities in Neurology, Psychiatry and the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging to execute clinical research projects stemming from our extensive collaborations with academic and commercial biotechnology and pharmaceutical interests. It is a site for academic–industry partnerships, biomedical STEM education/workforce development and contractual research. Areas of major interest include neurodegenerative diseases, mood, anxiety and psychotic disorders, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis, among others. At last count we have over 135 active clinical protocols currently in progress.

The CTRU enables the unprecedented integration of individualized precision medicine data on brain health with large-scale disease and normative sample data to discover new biomarkers of diagnosis, staging, tracking and mechanism of disease, and use these to develop new therapies.

CTRU resources include:
- Fully equipped wet and dry exam rooms
- Video-, audio-, gait mat, and other sensor-equipped rooms
- Bio-safety approved Wet lab space (centrifuges, labware, dry ice, fridge, freezers (-20 and – 80F), CLIA-waived POC tests)
- Physiology technologies (ECG, EEG, fNIRS)
- Virtual reality cave and an advanced Data Visualization Room that includes a Hyperwall, VR cave, and 3D holography

What does the CRN role look like at the CTRU?

The CTRU currently employs both Research Nurses and Research Nurse Practitioners. The CTRU CRNs and CRNPs work closely with a variety of study teams who utilize the CTRU clinical space to conduct their research.

No two days are ever the same at the CTRU, and at any given time, a CRN may find themselves completing traditional nursing functions, such as collecting vital signs, starting IVs, drawing blood and providing patient/participant support. CTRU CRNS are also trained to administer neuropsychiatric assessments, perform gait mat analysis and complete data entry or resolve data queries generated by electronic data systems specific to research.

Our CRNPs similarly perform many tasks familiar to NPs such as collecting history and concomitant medication information but may also be booked to perform a lumbar puncture, to monitor and obtain blood samples from arterial lines during PET/MRI scans or obtain informed consent from study participants.

The Clinical Research Nursing Staff at the CTRU are a unique blend of researcher, scientist, and nurse. Every day is an opportunity to be involved in cutting edge, state of the art science and research while at the same time bringing the caring and compassion of the nursing model to participants who are often facing challenging health conditions where their participation in research may be their last hope for an effective treatment.