

# Clinical Research Nurse (CRN) Collaborative Newsletter

Spring 2023 Edition

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



## Who We Are: Group Purpose Statement

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

Through a group led by experienced Clinical Research Nurses, in collaboration with the Department of Nursing and the Munn Center for Nursing Research, the Collaborative seeks to cultivate the partnership between research and clinical care through mentorship, collaboration, and education initiatives for Research Nurses, Research Nurse Practitioners, Staff Nurses and other interested individuals at MGH.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

In the February CRN Collaborative meeting, two guest speakers presented their impactful contributions to research nursing.

Deborah Melonas, RN, SDN, OCN, an infusion RN in the Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies, explored nursing resources for her patients in her research titled, *Telehealth as an additional nursing resource to monitor patients in an ambulatory oncology phase 1 clinical trial unit*. Her research showed that Telehealth could be effective in minimizing adverse events and complications for cancer patients on a Phase 1 clinical trial.

Lisa Liang Philpotts, RN, MSLS, the Associate Director of Public Services, MGH Treadwell Library shared her insights and expertise in supporting Clinical Research Nurses, presenting *Library Resources for the Clinical Research Nurse*. Lisa and her team are available to support MGH CRNs in navigating *eTreadwell*, the virtual library for MGH. It can be accessed from anywhere with no VPN required: <https://library.massgeneral.org>. In addition, instruction and 1:1 consultation are offered by contacting any of the options below:

- Text: 617-860-3912
- General: 617-726-8600
- Consultation: 617-726-8605
- @MGHTreadwell

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 1:30 – 3:00pm**  
**The Munn Center**  
**MGH Nursing Research Day:**  
***Learn How Our Nurses Transform***  
***Cutting Edge Practice into***  
***Scholarship to Improve Outcomes***  
**Where: O'Keefe Auditorium**

**Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 1:00pm**  
**CRN Collaborative Bimonthly**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**October 16- 18, 2023**  
**IARCN 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual**  
**Conference**  
***Advancements in Clinical***  
***Research Nursing: Building***  
***Practice Excellence in 2023*** [Info](#)

## Did You Know?



**25% of the**  
**200 MGH CRNs**  
**work within the**  
**MGH Cancer**  
**Center Protocol**  
**Office (CCPO).**



## Clinical Research Nurse Spotlight



By **Hannah Lyons,  
MSN, RN, AOCNS  
CCPO Nurse Director**

*Did you know  
that 25% of the  
200 MGH Clinical  
Research Nurses  
(CRNs) work  
within the MGH*

*Cancer Center Protocol Office (CCPO)?*

### About the MGH Cancer Center (CC) and the MGH Cancer Center Protocol Office (CCPO):

The CCPO is the department or “engine” supporting and managing all MGH cancer research. Research teams including nurses and research coordinators manage approximately 800 industry-sponsored, investigator-initiated, and government or grant funded therapeutic/interventional and minimal risk trials conducted across the 20 different programs within the Cancer Center, including the MGH Cancer Center satellites.

The MGH Cancer Center (CC) has one of the largest hospital-based cancer research programs in the country. Each program or disease group is supported by research nurses specialized in a type of cancer or treatment modality. The disease programs based in Boston focus on early phase clinical trials of novel and targeted therapies within the following disease groups:

- Thoracic Oncology
- Gastrointestinal Oncology
- Breast Cancer
- Genitourinary Cancers
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Sarcoma
- Multiple Myeloma
- Lymphoma
- Melanoma
- Leukemia
- Neuro-Oncology
- Benign Hematology

Cancer Center programs such as Pediatric Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplant and Cellular Immunotherapy also support robust clinical trials. The Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies is a dedicated complex clinical trials unit offering early phase comprehensive translational research to speed the discovery and delivery of new targeted therapies to patients with early and advanced stage cancers.

Newton-Wellesley, Waltham, and North Shore house the MGH Cancer Center satellite programs focusing on later phase research trials providing patients in the community access to clinical trials that offer cutting edge therapy that they might not otherwise have access to.

Last year, more than 4,500 people participated in cancer research at MGH.

### What does the CRN role encompass at the MGH CCPO?

CRNs at the CCPO are also known as Clinical Trial Nurses and Research Nurse Coordinators.

### CCPO Research Nurse Coordinators

are members of a large interdisciplinary team involved in evaluating the feasibility and implementation of trials investigating novel cancer therapies. The CRNs combine their oncology nursing expertise with their knowledge of research to provide optimal care of research participants while ensuring fidelity to the protocol. The CRNs also work directly with patients to help them navigate protocol requirements, understand the investigational agents, monitor oral

study drug adherence and assess patients for treatment side effects, triaging side effect management as needed.

As our knowledge grows and therapies become more individualized, trials have also become more complex. Many trials require coordination with other hospital departments, for example, cancer vaccine trials may require intra-tumoral injections in interventional radiology; CAR-T therapy trials often require inpatient monitoring for seven to 14 days; and other trials for acutely ill patients begin in the inpatient setting before transitioning to outpatient care. CRNs serve as expert resources for staff administering investigational products in these settings and collaborate with care teams to coordinate follow up care for patients on an investigational agent.

The role of the CRN in the MGH CCPO is an exciting one in which nurses are continually developing new expertise. The role requires attention to detail, dedication to research, commitment to interdisciplinary teamwork and a passion for excellent patient care.



*The CRN Collaborative meets the  
1st Monday, every other month  
2023: April, June, August, October,  
and December.*

*Please contact [Catriona Grant](mailto:cgrant@mgh.harvard.edu)  
[cgrant@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:cgrant@mgh.harvard.edu) if CRN  
meetings are not in your calendar.*