Examples of Research Conducted at the ITS-CRC

- Muscle physiology using stable isotopes and DEXA to quantitate protein synthesis
- Obesity research using DEXA and underwater weighing for measurement of lean body mass/fat, insulin and glucose clamps and fat biopsies to study metabolism
- Studies of cancer cachexia using DEXA, muscle/fat biopsies, fixed composition diets
- Testing CNS antagonists of cocaine
- Study of fluid and electrolyte distribution during general anesthesia
- Diabetes studies using glucose or insulin clamps
- Nutrition studies using fixed composition diets
- Testing therapeutic modalities for rare diseases such as porphyria and angioneurotic edema
- Osteoporosis research using DEXA and quantitative CT
- Multicenter drug or vaccine trials
- Social studies of adolescent sexuality

ITS-CRC Resources for Investigators

- Inpatient and outpatient facilities available around the clock, every day
- Nursing staff specialized in clinical research and a high nurse-patient ratio for research and service patients
- Metabolic kitchen and dining area with a research dietitian, staff and advanced dietary software
- Core Laboratory to process samples and distribute them to the ITS Biorepository and other core resources on and off campus
- Metabolic control unit with equipment for indirect calorimetry
- Computer laboratory providing data management support
- DEXA equipment for calculating changes in lean body mass and bone density
- Exercise equipment
- Sleep studies laboratory
- Underwater weighing tank for assessing body composition
- Procedure room for invasive studies
- Pharmacokinetic study areas

Flight Analog Research Unit

Devoted to NASA-sponsored research, this unit located on the 6th floor of the Children’s Hospital supports studies of prolonged bed rest, which mimics prolonged space flight, and the investigation of countermeasures for adverse effects of microgravity.

Contact us

Phone: (409) 772-1950 Fax: (409) 772-8097
Email: ITS.CRC@utmb.edu
Website: http://www.its.utmb.edu

Ask us about opportunities for clinicians to pursue patient-oriented research.
The Institute for Translational Sciences Clinical Research Center (ITS-CRC) provides an environment for multidisciplinary research involving human subjects. The center was originally established with NIH support under the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) program in 1962, and became part of the ITS with funding of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) in 2009.

We welcome investigators with funded projects, and those who wish to conduct pilot projects that will provide data for future grant applications. Studies funded and/or sponsored by industry are also welcome.

The main ITS-CRC unit is located on the 5th floor of John Sealy Towers, with the outpatient unit on JSH5A and the inpatient unit on JSH5B. The ITS-CRC administrative offices are located on the main unit, adjacent to a conference room used for protocol planning and discussion.

Our multidisciplinary team can assist with all stages of protocol development and implementation. We offer expertise in biostatistics, bioinformatics, addressing ethical and regulatory issues, and much more.

Protocols, with a faculty physician as a collaborator, may be submitted by postdoctoral fellows, graduate and medical students, nurses and other health care professionals.

All protocols must be approved by the UTMB Institutional Review Board (IRB) and by the ITS Scientific Review Committee (ITS-SRC). Protocols should be submitted simultaneously to the IRB and the ITS-SRC, because concurrent review enables an investigator to reply simultaneously to stipulations.

Investigators must also provide copies of all correspondence to and from the IRB and grant budgets related to the study, which are needed to assess regulatory and ethical issues and appropriate allocation of resources. The IRB requires that a UTMB faculty member be the PI or the responsible sponsor for a protocol.

Forms and Instructions for protocol submission are on the ITS-CRC website, www.its.utmb.edu.

Investigators and research personnel may also access education and training resources available through the ITS, the Graduate School and the Research Office:

- Clinical Research: Tools and Techniques
- Scientific Writing for Clinical Research
- Data & Safety Monitoring Planning
- Grants for Lunch
- Mentored research experiences
- Clinical Science MS/PhD Program
- Translational Research Scholars Program

Investigators interested in utilizing or learning more about ITS-CRC resources should contact the Administrative Office on the 5th floor of John Sealy Towers. (409) 772-1950

Mission: To efficiently support safe, ethical, accurate clinical research and effective, up-to-date clinical research education with well trained research personnel and modern, accessible facilities and equipment.