Are you a VA-affiliated Principal Investigator who needs assistance with the clinical aspects of your research studies? The Clinical Research Unit (CRU) may offer the help you need.

The CRU was established in the year 2000 to provide a well-equipped, controlled and safe outpatient setting for investigators to conduct their clinical research studies at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. With its expertise in nursing and research administration, the unit is able to provide a variety of services including specialized diagnostic tests and procedures.

The CRU staff is trained to meet all relevant guidelines and regulations of the government and of the University of Washington’s Human Subjects Division with respect to the ethical conduct of clinical trials involving human subjects.

Dr. Alvin Matsumoto, Director of the CRU, chairs the CRU Advisory Committee which meets monthly to address management and operational matters. The unit has two full-time staff members: Susan Bigda, RN and Teresita Cornell. Their experience and background create a knowledgeable, supportive environment in the unit. Susan Bigda is a Registered Nurse with 10 years of cardiology research experience at the Tucson VA, and 2 years diabetes research with the UW, and 4 years as the nurse manager of the CRU. She has had a wide variety of nursing experience and is able to assist in studies performing procedures such as IV’s, EKG, and DEXA scanning. Teresita Cornell has over 12 years experience in various medical specialty clinics in the areas of outpatient rehabilitation and urology. Teresita performs procedures such as blood draws, vitals, DEXA scanning, as well as administrative tasks. Both are aware of and experienced in the requirements of following research protocols.

Located in Bldg 100, 6 West, the unit offers three 2-bed rooms, one exam room, one conference room, and a small room for subject interviewing or consenting.

For more information and a list of services provided by the CRU, please visit the SIBCR website at www.sibcr.org or call Susan Bigda, RN at 206-277-4681.

We hope you are able to take advantage of the opportunities the CRU has to offer.