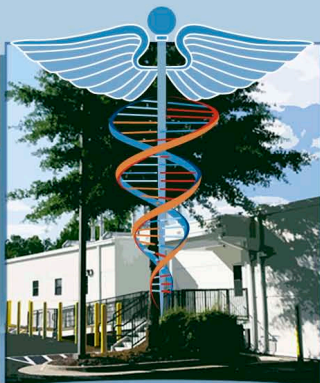
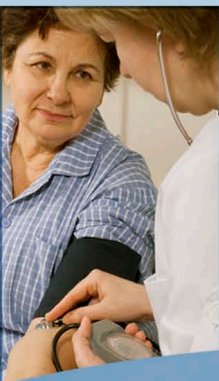


Clinical Research Unit



*Translating research from
bench to bedside*

www.niehs.nih.gov/clinicalunit





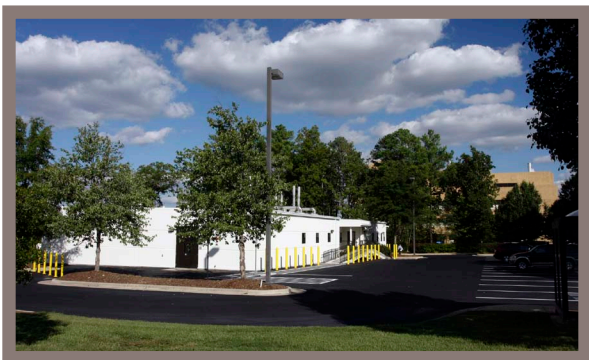
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Clinical Research Program

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Clinical Research Program and the Clinical Research Unit strive to:

- ▶ Translate basic laboratory findings to advances in human health
- ▶ Study interactions between genetics and environmental factors in the development of human diseases
- ▶ Identify populations at increased risk, and develop novel preventative and therapeutic strategies to combat human diseases.

“The Clinical Research Unit is a new addition to the NIEHS research portfolio that I believe is very exciting and will give us the opportunity to add to the ways that we can examine human health and perform medical research.”

Stavros Garantziotis, M.D.
Medical Director,
NIEHS Clinical Research Unit



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and is one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's premier biomedical research agency. The mission of the NIEHS is to reduce the burden of human illness and disability by understanding how the environment influences the development and progression of disease. To help fulfill the mission of the NIEHS, a new Clinical Research Unit was opened in 2009.

Clinical Research Unit

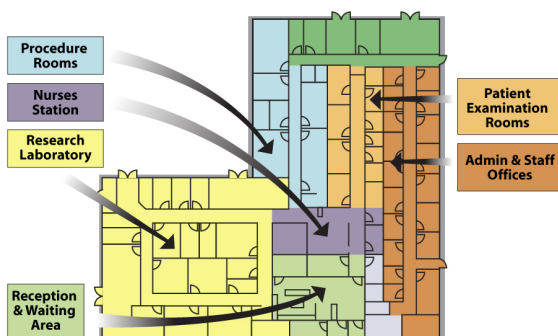
The NIEHS Clinical Research Unit is a 14,000 square foot facility specifically designed to host collaborative research that moves laboratory science into applications for improving human health and preventing disease. The facility promotes partnerships between NIEHS scientists and other scientists from local North Carolina universities and research institutes, and serves as a point of interface with the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Clinical Research Unit is situated adjacent to the main NIEHS building, which houses the Institute's research laboratories, and provides an easily accessible on-campus site to collect human tissue and fluid samples, carry out analysis, and conduct functional assessments of study

participants. The Clinical Research Unit accommodates outpatient research only, and offers routine patient evaluation as well as specialized diagnostic and analytical capabilities, such as pulmonary function testing and various imaging procedures.

Scientists who utilize the facility have proposed a diverse array of research studies involving pulmonary diseases, medical genetics, cardiovascular diseases, and reproductive health. The Clinical Research Unit also allows for advanced training opportunities for students and postdoctoral fellows whose research interests require access to clinical samples and patients.

Darryl Zeldin, M.D., is the Acting Director of the NIEHS Clinical Research Program and Stavros Garantziotis, M.D., is the Medical Director for the Clinical Research Unit. Together with the NIEHS leadership, Drs. Zeldin and Garantziotis have put in place a thorough scientific, human subjects protection, and resource utilization review process to make certain that only the highest quality research is conducted at the facility, and to ensure patient safety at every step of the research process.



To learn more about the NIEHS Clinical Research Unit, visit our website at www.niehs.nih.gov/clinicalunit

Studies Supported by the CRU

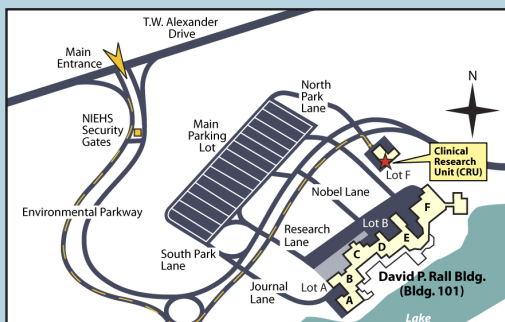
The NIEHS Clinical Research Unit enrolls individuals from NIEHS clinical studies such as the Environmental Polymorphism Registry (EPR). Natural history studies and clinical trials (Phase I-II-III) are also supported.

The Environmental Polymorphism Registry

The Environmental Polymorphism Registry (EPR) is a long-term research project to collect DNA samples from up to 20,000 individuals in North Carolina's Triangle region. These are available to scientists to look for genes that may be linked to common diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, asthma, and many others. While many types of genes will be studied as part of the EPR, the focus is on a group of genes known as the "environmental response genes." These are the genes that increase the risk of human disease when combined with some environmental exposure. Alternatively, the "environmental response genes" can also decrease disease risk by conferring a protective effect upon the individual when exposed.

The EPR is sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and is being conducted in collaboration with the University of North Carolina's Clinical and Translational Research Center. The project will help researchers to develop new and better ways of screening populations, assessing health risks, and diagnosing, preventing, and treating common diseases.

The Clinical Research Unit is located on the NIEHS main campus in Research Triangle Park, N.C. All Clinical Research Unit patients and visitors are required to enter the site via the main entrance at 111 T.W. Alexander Drive. Photo ID is required.



Directions to the NIEHS Main Campus

From Raleigh, Cary, RDU Airport

Take I-40 West to exit 279A. At the light, turn left onto T.W. Alexander Drive. Just past the first light on the left will be the entrance to the NIEHS main campus.

From Chapel Hill

Take I-40 East to exit 279A. At the light, turn left onto T.W. Alexander Drive. Just past the first light on the left will be the entrance to the NIEHS main campus.

From Durham

Take the Durham Freeway (NC-147) South all the way to the end. At the light, turn left onto T.W. Alexander Drive. Just past the first light on the left will be the entrance to the NIEHS main campus.

For online directions to the NIEHS main campus and Clinical Research Unit, please visit <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/visiting/index.cfm>

