

Clinical Research Unit

Vancouver Coastal Health

The Clinical Research Unit (CRU) offers integrated clinical, operational and regulatory support to investigators throughout the clinical trial lifecycle. Dedicated research coordinators, nurses and research assistants work closely with study teams to support study start-up, participant visits and protocol implementation.

Centralized hub for multidisciplinary clinical trials

The Clinical Research Unit (CRU) at Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute provides centralized services and operational support for clinical trials across multiple health disciplines. The unit enables investigators and industry partners to conduct high-quality clinical research within an integrated clinical environment.



Space and research infrastructure

CRU is located in the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, designed to support a broad range of clinical research activities.

Unit features include:

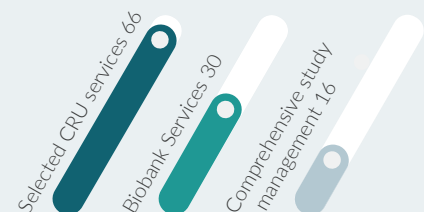
- Two exam rooms
- Examination tables
- Hospital bed
- Phlebotomy chairs
- Weight scale
- Vital sign machine
- Oximeter

CRU Strengths

- + Experienced research coordinators, nurses, research assistants and a medical lab assistant
- + Laboratory and biobanking services
- + Efficient study start-up and trial coordination
- + Investigational product management

Operational highlights 2025

112 active research support contracts



Flexible service models — from sample-only support to full end-to-end trial administration



Patient-Centred Clinical Trials at VCH

Vancouver Coastal Health brings together research facilities, highly trained clinical teams and rigorous regulatory standards to support efficient, high-quality clinical trials. We provide investigators and industry partners with a trusted environment for advancing discovery and translating research into patient care.

Comprehensive clinical research support

CRU provides a comprehensive range of services to support clinical research from study start-up through trial completion. Investigators and industry partners can engage CRU for operational, administrative and study conduct support across multiple aspects of trial delivery.

Laboratory and product services

- + Secure receipt, storage, accountability, dispensing and administration of investigational products
- + Specimen collection (blood, urine, stool, throat swabs)
- + Sample processing and shipment, including dangerous goods transport
- + -20°C and -80°C freezers and 2–8°C refrigeration
- + Temperature-controlled centrifuges and laboratory incubator

Biobank services

- + Registered with the UBC Office of Biobank Education and Research (OBER)
- + Certified by the Canadian Tissue Repository Network BioBank Certification Program
- + Biospecimen processing, harvesting, preparation and preservation
- + Short-term specimen storage

CRU partners with 30 clinical divisions across VCH and UBC, supporting clinical trials across a wide range of health areas. Key health domains include:



Cancer and blood disorders



Kidney and vascular health



Respiratory and critical care



Brain and mental health



Endocrine and metabolic health

Skin, allergy and immune health



Gastrointestinal and liver health



Obstetrics and gynaecology



Vision and eye health



Urology



Commitment to quality and ethics

Vancouver Coastal Health is committed to high-quality, ethical and efficient clinical research. CRU operates in accordance with Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS2), International Council for Harmonisation – Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP) and Health Canada regulatory requirements.

Partner with CRU Investigators and industry partners are invited to access centralized clinical research services at VCH. The CRU team can provide facility tours and discuss your clinical trial support needs.