Emergency Department Research Associate (EDRA) Program

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History

- In the mid-90s, influential EM researchers pioneered the use of undergraduate, pre-health profession students to enroll subjects into investigator-initiated research studies.

- Led to significant expansion of the scope of research performed in emergency medicine.

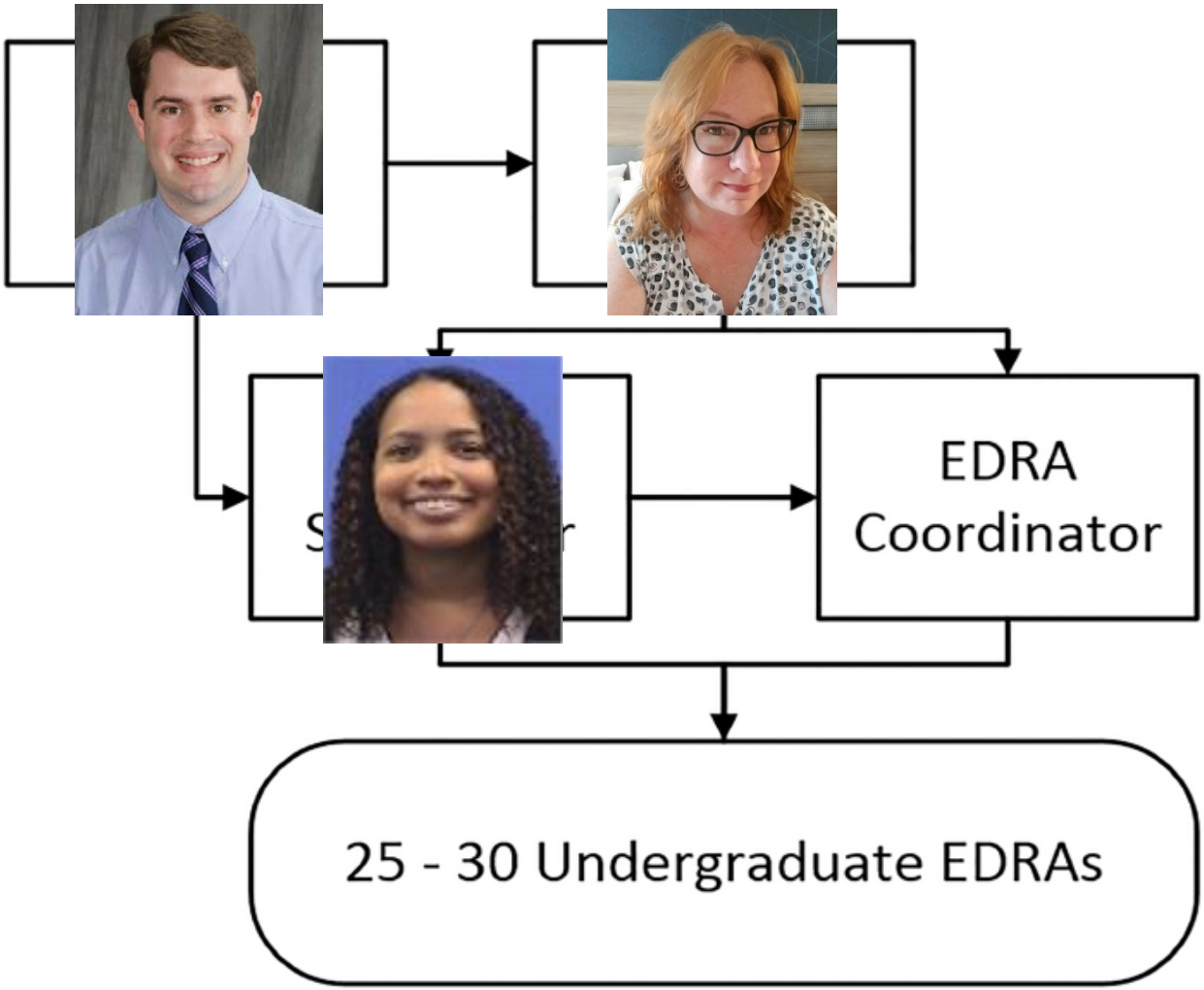
- URMC was a very early adopter of this model (1996).

History

- In the past 10 years alone, over 20,000 study participants have been enrolled by the EDRA program into a wide variety of research studies.

- Been responsible for URMC being among the top enrolling institutions in many of the recent multi-center ED studies in which we participate.

So who are we…



What do we do, and how do we do it?

- Our EDRA program is a university service center, with funding received from investigators
  - Costs consist primarily of administrative effort, EDRA hourly wages, and training expenses, resulting in a fixed hourly rate for program utilization
- Our EDRAs are able to use the URMC EMR track-board to monitor characteristics of patients presenting to the ED
- Each login is monitored by hospital administration for appropriate usage

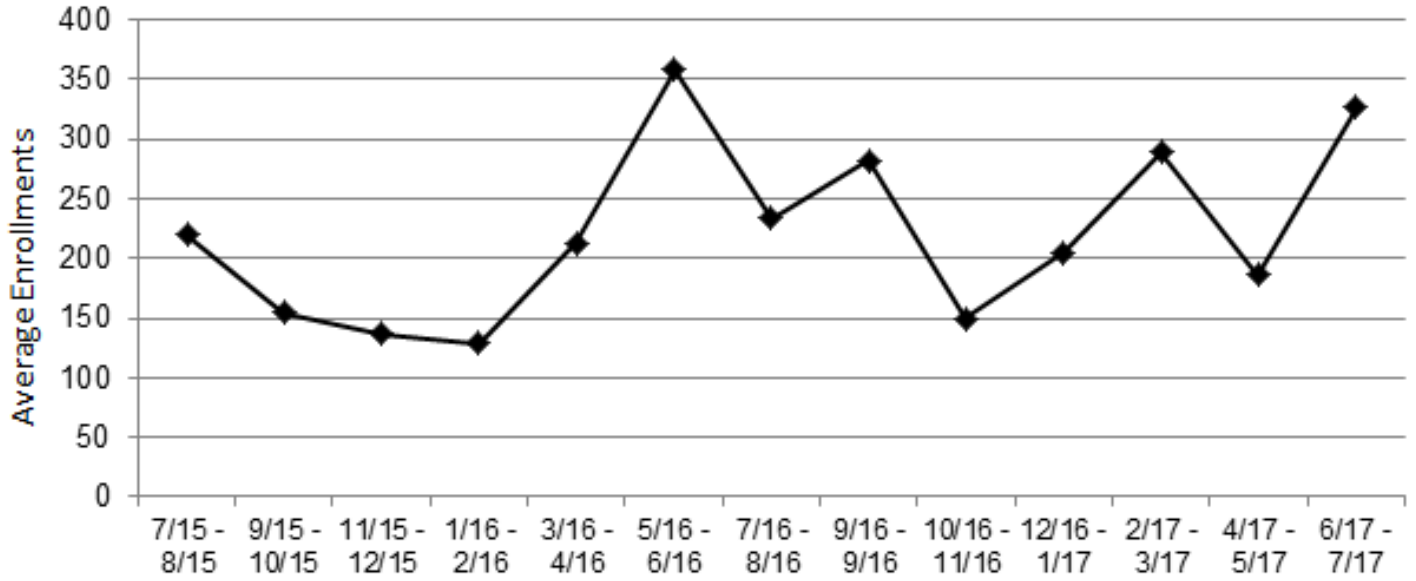
What do we do, and how do we do it?

- EDRAs use this tool to initially screen patients for eligibility
- EDRA sometimes contact a PI/coordinator to alert them of a potentially eligible patient
- Other times the EDRA to approach those patients who meet the inclusion criteria
  - Introduce themselves/the study, answer any questions, determine capacity, and obtain document informed consent

What do we do, and how do we do it?

- Responsibilities of our EDRAs following consent are highly variable.
  - Contact the contracted study team to hand off the consented patient
  - Perform study procedures
    - Administer surveys
    - Obtain specimens (e.g., nasal swabs, saliva, blood)
    - Perform brief interventions (e.g., brief motivational interviewing, referral to treatment).

So…are we any good?



- During same time period, program actively enrolled for an average of 8.98 studies at a time (range = 7 - 12).
- Importantly, across the wide variety of studies, we have demonstrated a 3 to 1 ratio of enrollments to refusals.

So… what is this gonna cost me?

- Our program does cost more than volunteers ☹

- Relative to research assistants, we tend to be quite cost effective

- 16 hours a day/7 days a week
- Already trained and monitored
- Able to sign a contract and enroll within a week
- Umbrella RSRB approval