Emergency Department Research Associate (EDRA) Program – Not Just for Emergencies

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Goals

- Historical Context
- Program Overview
  - Who
  - What
  - Why
- Training Program
- Program Costs

History

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

- Led to significant expansion of the scope & volume of research performed in emergency medicine.
  Ex. SUNY Stony Brook 2 > 20 published manuscripts annually

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

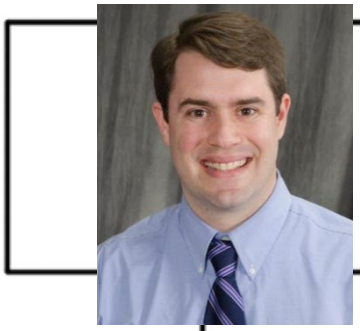
History

- In the past 10 years nearly 30,000 study participants have been enrolled by our EDRA program at URMC into a wide variety of research studies.

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

- We have successfully enrolled participants at SMH, HH, Noyes, and URMC Urgent Care Facilities

So who are we…



EDRA Supervisor

EDRA Coordinator

25 - 30 Undergraduate EDRAs

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 wages, and training expenses, resulting in a calculated 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 in real time
- EDRAs are on duty 8am – Midnight 7 days/week

How do we do it?

- EDRAs use the trackboard on Epic to screen patients for initial eligibility

- EDRAs can either obtain "Permission to contact" from a patient so that a study team member can approach to discuss eligibility and consent

- *Or* the EDRA approaches patients who appear to meet the inclusion criteria
  - Introduce themselves/the study, answer any questions, determine capacity to provide consent, and obtain and document informed consent per the study protocol

After Consent

- Responsibilities of our EDRAs following the consent process are highly variable and depend on study need.
  - Contact the study team to hand off the consented patient
  - *Or* perform study procedures
    - Administer surveys on paper or REDCap
    - Obtain specimens (e.g., nasal swabs, saliva, blood)
    - Perform brief interventions (e.g., brief motivational interviewing, referral to treatment).
    - Obtain clinical data (e.g., EEG, Ultrasound, Orthostatic Vitals)

Why recruit in the ED?

- Diversity of patient population
- Diversity of enrollers
- Diversity of chief complaints & acuity
- Open 24/7 with active coverage 16/7
- Access to both admitted and discharged patients

But My Study isn't about Emergencies

- Everyone uses the ED at some point!
- We recruit for studies involving almost any health-related condition including Public Health, Behavioral Health, Primary Care, Prevention, and all Medical Subspecialties

EDRA Training

- Pre-requisite 4 credit undergraduate course
- Includes all URMC required HIPAA, CITI, Epic training
- Minimum 40 hours interning in the ED with a senior enroller
- Classroom sessions include working with pediatric, geriatric, LGBTQ, Deaf, and behaviorally challenging patients
- Study Specific Training for all Active Studies

So… what does this cost?

- Our program does cost more than volunteers ☹ The cost varies tremendously based on your needs
  - *Current projects (14) average $1,200/month*
- Relative to hiring research assistants, the program is extremely cost effective
- Almost always less expensive than hiring research assistants to enroll 16 hours a day/7 days a week (2.8 FTE)
- Already trained and monitored
- Able to sign a contract and begin enrolling within 1-2 weeks
- Umbrella RSRB approval means you do not need to add 40 enrollers to your RSRB protocol, just reference the Umbrella Protocol in your application

Questions?

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Contact us for more information

EMResearch@urmc.rochester.edu

EDRA Program Website