

Department of Neurosurgery

Clinical Research Accountability Unit (CRAU)

General Summary

The Department of Neurosurgery conducts human subjects research across several clinical areas, as outlined below. The department's research portfolio includes clinical trials, observational, and quality improvement studies. Specific research efforts cover neurosurgery imaging, operative techniques, treatments, novel technologies, and clinically focused quality improvement activities.

The department is comprised of extramurally funded research, industry-sponsored clinical research, and observational and PI-initiated research. Extramurally funded research contains the Neuroprotection Research Group which studies ways to protect the brain and nervous system in individuals exposed to high physiological stress. The industry-sponsored clinical research includes a partnership with the UNC Neurology-Stroke Center. The research interests within this division include spinal tumors, spinal trauma, rheumatologic diseases of the spine, complex spinal deformities, and minimally invasive treatment of degenerative spinal conditions, including herniated disks, spinal spondylolisthesis, and spinal stenosis. The Functional Neurosurgery Division is involved in research to optimize the technique of existing and emerging surgical procedures, define the predictors of treatment outcomes, and develop and test the emerging indications of neuromodulation in clinical trials. Additional observational and PI-initiated research includes vascular neurosurgery, pediatric neurosurgery, and tumor neurosurgery.

CRAU Structure

The Neurosurgery CRAU will conduct and manage the essential activities outlined below under the direction of the Faculty Director and Administrative Director.

CRAU Faculty Director:

- Vibhor Krishna, MD, SM, Associate Professor

CRAU Administrative Director:

- Dawn Kernagis, PhD, Assistant Professor

CRAU Essential Activities

The Neurosurgery CRAU will maintain accountability for all studies led by department faculty investigators. Studies conducted within the department that are led by non-Neurosurgery faculty will be accounted for by the study PI's home department CRAU.

Administration	
Primary point of contact for CRSO and CRAU:	Vibhor Krishna
Primary point of contact for industry sponsors:	Dawn Kernagis
Monitor personnel and staffing:	Dawn Kernagis

Review study feasibility assessment outcomes:	
First level review:	Dawn Kernagis
Second level review:	Vibhor Krishna
Review and verify administrative data about the CRAU:	Dawn Kernagis Vibhor Krishna Nelson Oyesiku
Operations	
Point of contact for OnCore utilization:	Dawn Kernagis
Pre-review of initial IRB submissions for quality and completeness:	PIs and/or their designees Points of Contact: Dawn Kernagis Vibhor Krishna
Departmental IRB certification:	Nhandi Kenion Nelson Oyesiku
Review aggregate audit and monitoring findings:	Dawn Kernagis
Financial Management	
Point(s) of contact for financial management best practices:	Nhandi Kenion Gene Hobbs