Embedded. We first became familiar with this term through news coverage of recent military operations, when intrepid journalists were ensconced within military units on the ground. In the trenches, out on patrols, side by side with the grunts and sergeants, these news hounds became part of the units they were attached to.

Boston Children’s Hospital is a far cry from an active military site, but the Clinical Research Center (CRC) has its own embedded personnel on the front lines in the Emergency Department. Project Manager Mark Berry, and Clinical Research Coordinators Kaitlin Morris, Jackson Norton, and Brittany Stopa from the Development and Operations Core, and Michael Monuteaux, a Senior Biostatistician from the Design and Analysis Core, are supported almost entirely and sit directly in the Division of Emergency Medicine (EM). By having a focused effort and presence within Emergency Medicine the team from the CRC has grown to become integral to the academic and research missions of the division. Whether it be working alongside the division’s Research Finance Administrator Amy Walsh, developing the division-wide research portfolio or the nitty-gritty of helping an EM Fellow get their study up and running, the CRC personnel are contributing every step of the way.

Thanks to Richard Bachur, the Chief of EM and Voula Osganian, the Co-Chief of the CRC, this model of collaboration, where CRC staff are supported by and dedicated to a single academic “unit”, has become the template for other divisions and departments across the hospital, and for good reason. Through this close and consistent working arrangement, the CRC team has developed collaborative relationships with many of the EM clinician researchers, relationships that are paying dividends in terms of increased productivity and academic output. Instead of developing new connections with CRC staff for each new project, the EM investigators can save time and effort though working with the familiar faces already in place. Also, both ED and CRC staff are saving time on administrative fronts. All in all, the EM Principal Investigators as well as the embedded CRC personnel are happy and engaged by this solid partnership.

The CRC team members are certainly not soldiers, but they’ve become key contributors to the brigade that is entrusted with the academic and research mission of the Division of Emergency Medicine. And so far, it’s been Mission Accomplished.
Clinical Research Resources for Investigators
(click on the underlined header)

Case Report Form Checklist: Intended as a guide for investigators to review their forms with reminders of key elements and to avoid common mistakes. Complete with a link to a

REDCap Database Checklist: Helpful tips to guide the REDCap database development process. Focuses on the standards of programming rather than the basic technologies of REDCap. Recommends database layout, variable construction, naming and coding.

Research Practice Guidelines: Helpful guidelines on best practices ranging from “Writing a Study Protocol” to “Guidelines for REcrutiment” to guide the REDCap database development process. Focuses on the standards of programming rather than the basic tech-

Survey Resources: Includes Common Measures and External Resources

Health Economic Resources: For those who plan to conduct economic evaluations of clinical interventions, health policies, and health care programs

Scientific research consists of seeing what everyone has seen, but thinking what no one else has thought
-Anonymous

Harvard Catalyst Resources
(click on the underlined header)

HCCRC Resource Request: For those who would like to use the CTSU at Children’s and access nursing, nutrition and lab services

Educational Programs: Offering dozens of short-courses and trainings

Biostatistical Consulting: Offering expertise and consultation on a range of relevant areas to aid in clinical research. Our own CRC staff members participate in this!

Pilot Funding: Pilot grant opportunities offered throughout the year on a variety of topics

Bioinformatics Consulting: Focuses on early stages of research project development

One Hour Consults Available!

CRC, Research Pharmacy and Behavioral Science offers “free” one-hour consults, click HERE
Dear Colleagues,

The fall is upon us and we look forward to working with all of you during this upcoming year as we have a new crop of seasoned managers and staff. Our flagship Introduction to Clinical Research starts September 10th! This 2 ½ day course provides an introduction to the relevant BCH resources available to do clinical research at the hospital; a to-do for any clinical researcher at the hospital!

~ Ellis and Voula