



Accelerating Research, Improving Health

**NC TraCS**

The integrated hub of the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program at UNC-Chapel Hill



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute

# Who We Are

The North Carolina Translational & Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute is a grant-funded institute founded as a service to the research community—guiding you through clinical trials and regulatory approval, all the way to implementation in patient care. We do this by being a catalytic partner that educates, funds, connects, and supports researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill and across the U.S.

Think of our helpful and knowledgeable staff and faculty as your extended research team.

We are part of the CTSA consortium created by the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) with a common mission to accelerate discoveries into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public.



**NC STATE**



We combine the research strengths, resources, and opportunities of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and our partners: North Carolina State University in Raleigh and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) in Greensboro.

Together, we are strategically designed to overcome barriers that historically have been responsible for fragmenting and delaying research efforts.

Our aims are to develop and support a skilled research workforce, engage diverse stakeholders as active partners, develop innovative methods to address barriers to translating scientific findings, and incorporate cutting-edge informatics tools and methodologies in every aspect of translational research.

**“** *The services that NC TraCS provides were vital to the success of our project. I am continually blown away by both the personal and professional nature of the TraCS team. Extremely helpful!* **”**

— NC TraCS customer, College of Health Sciences

# Leadership



John Buse, MD, PhD  
Co-Principal Investigator & Co-Director

Dr. Buse's clinical and research interests are in the prevention and treatment of diabetes and its complications. He works with teams of investigators in diabetes clinical trials, comparative effectiveness research, and translation of basic science research towards clinical application.

His current projects focus on the development of glucose-responsive insulin, cardiovascular safety and efficacy of diabetes drugs, and developing the evidence-base for treatment guidelines of the future in diabetes care.



Nick Shaheen, MD, MPH  
Co-Principal Investigator & Co-Director

Dr. Shaheen is a gastroenterologist and epidemiologist known for his groundbreaking research on Barrett's esophagus. Over the course of his career, he has developed and tested new endoscopic methods for treatment of patients with Barrett's and has served as the PI on several large, multi-center trials testing novel endoscopic technologies that have fundamentally changed the care of patients with early esophageal neoplasia. He is also a member of several national consortia that are conducting translational studies of Barrett's patients.



Andrea Carnegie, PhD  
Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Carnegie directs the administrative, financial, and operational affairs of NC TraCS. She has a PhD in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt University and did her postdoctoral training at Oregon Health Sciences University, where her research focused on intracellular signaling pathways regulating heart cell growth and heart disease.

Committed to supporting the next generation of researchers, Dr. Carnegie uses her combined scientific and administrative experience to help lead the advancement of clinical and translational science at UNC.

# Our Services

**We educate, fund, connect, and support research teams.**

TraCS has programs that offer specific support in every step of your research project.

Each of our services (1) provides expert consultations; (2) develops novel methods and technologies for translational science; and (3) educates and trains the translational research workforce.

Whether you are in the middle of a project or just starting out, our dedicated staff is ready to help. Contact us at [nctracs@unc.edu](mailto:nctracs@unc.edu) or 919.966.6022 to ask questions or engage with any of the following services. You may also submit a request at [tracs.unc.edu/request](https://tracs.unc.edu/request).

## Access to data and data analysis

- Access/assistance using large, population-based healthcare databases, including MarketScan® and Medicare
- Development of innovative technology to address translational research needs
- Access to UNC Health Care System patient data for approved research studies
- Assistance exploring clinical data with resources such as i2b2, EMERSE, and other text mining applications
- Access to clinical data from other institutions through Clinical Data Research Networks
- Building features in Epic to support research studies

## Resources to help build a team and fund your research

- Provide funding opportunities to encourage and facilitate novel cross-disciplinary clinical and translational research

- Link investigators/researchers with essential expertise and key research resources at UNC, throughout the research triangle, and across CTSAAs
- Assistance with the grant writing process, including identifying funding sources, providing editorial support and scientific consultation, and proposal review
- Access/assistance with informatics tools to manage patient registries and study data

## Engaging the community in your research

- Help researchers build partnerships with communities and health care providers
- Provide expertise in stakeholder engagement, practice-based research, working with underserved populations, and implementation science
- Consult on the use of traditional and novel engagement methods and tools for research

## Help recruiting and keeping research participants

- Consultation on methods and tools to recruit and retain participants in research studies, including diverse populations
- Help with developing culturally competent and inclusive recruitment strategies and materials
- Customized research protocol review
- Collaboration to improve recruitment/retention rates and streamline effort
- Help listing your research study on the UNC study listing website

“ *The TraCS internal grant proposal consultation is one of the most valuable services offered by the University.* ”

— NC TraCS customer,  
Pharmacology/Eshelman School of Pharmacy

## Space to do your research

The Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) provides an optimal professional environment for clinical innovation, quality care, resource stewardship, and research leadership.

We offer a variety of research support services, including a 9,600 sq. ft. outpatient unit, access to inpatient beds, research on location services, a staff of highly-skilled research professionals, and specimen processing and storage facilities. We also provide assistance with study budgeting and implementation and consultations during protocol development.



## Assistance conducting your clinical research

- Access to faculty and staff with expertise in statistical methodology, research study design, and data management solutions for single and multi-site studies
- Confidential expert consultations on ethical issues surrounding clinical and translational research study design and results dissemination
- Assistance with local and federal regulatory requirements such as IRB and DSMBs
- Pre-clinical regulatory guidance and development strategies to advance a novel compound or device into clinical medicine
- Quality assurance and study monitoring for clinical trials not routinely monitored by any other entities
- Experienced coordinators, project managers, and research nurses equipped to perform a wide range of study coordination services
- Customized protocol review, recruitment planning, and consultations
- Assistance developing and implementing multi-center studies

## Resources to expand knowledge

- Formal and informal learning and training opportunities in translational science for a broad array of audiences — from junior academics to community leaders

- Education and training opportunities in regulatory issues for investigators and study coordinators to ensure adherence with national regulatory and institutional requirements
- Educational opportunities on best practices to accelerate participation in research studies
- Introductory and advanced training on the use of clinical data and informatics tools
- Education and training opportunities in statistics and study design
- Training on grant writing and proposal development

## Help translating discoveries and inventions to market

- Funding to advance innovative drug discovery, medical device, diagnostic, tools, and health/IT ideas
- Help with development planning and risk assessment from our internal R&D team, local industry, and technical mentors

“ TraCS provides exceptional customer service and a broad range of services that are critical to the mission of research across the entire pipeline – from proposal development, statistical consultation, study design, participant recruitment, regulatory and IRB issues, to education. ”

— NC TraCS customer,  
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center



UNC campus: Brinkhous-Bullitt, 2nd floor



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