Clinical-trial manager CPC moving to Aurora medical complex

CPC, a national leader in clinical trial management, is moving its headquarters to a site near the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora to run the University of Colorado School of Medicine's stem-cell research trials.

The commitment by CPC, which is now located at 789 Sherman St. near downtown Denver, is expected to make the medical school's Charles C. Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology a hub for clinical trials. And it could lead to a more efficient stream of getting research products from the Aurora campus onto the market, helping to create more jobs.

“It could be a significant on both our organization and on the newly created stem cell center at the university,” said Evan King, chief operating officer for CPC.

CPC was born out of the medical school in 1989 and consists of two arms that employ a total of 45 workers. One is CPC Clinical Research, a non-profit academic research organization that manages clinical trials on drugs and medical devices in the areas of cardiovascular and peripheral arterial disease. The other is CPC Community Health, which offers community outreach to populations at high risk of afflictions like high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

All of its workers will make the move beginning on Friday, which is when CPC and the medical school are scheduled to hold a joint news conference to announce the partnership. Though CPC is not expanding its staff yet, it hopes that the partnership will lead to future job growth, King said.

The medical school opened its stem-cell program four years ago and since has added several dozen employees and tens of millions of dollars worth of grants. In March, the program was designated a stem-cell center, putting it in better position to attract federal and private grant money.

CPC’s move will make the company the first tenant in the new University Physicians Inc. building in the Colorado Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons, just north of the Anschutz Campus. But in the long term it brings a lot of synergy to the process of conducting human trials regarding stem-cell research and launches the program toward being able to bring in even more grants and generate more publicity, said Dan Meyers, communications director for the medical school.

“We’re combining an agency that really knows how to do trials with an agency that really knows how to do research,” Meyers said.