



## **Announcement: CTRC Subsidized Fee-for-Service Model and CTRC *MicroGrant* Program**

Dear CTRC Investigators,

We would like to update you on important information from the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI). Our NIH grant application for another 5 years of funding was submitted on January 8, 2013. Although the grant application will not be reviewed until May, 2013, we want to make you aware of changes in the manner in which the CCTSI will support CTRC clinical research studies. The CTSA programs across the country are now being required by NIH to implement a Program Income System in the first year of the new grant award that will change the funding model for CTRC research to a model of subsidized fee-for-service use of CTRC resources. In response to this change, the CCTSI is launching a new *MicroGrants* program to assist predominantly junior investigators in paying for these services. This announcement describes implementation of the Program Income System at University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) CTRC and Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) CTRC. These policies do not apply to the National Jewish Health and University of Colorado Boulder CTCRCs at this time. This correspondence supersedes all prior communications pertaining to CCTSI support of CTRC services. **Please read this entire message, including point #5 below that describes the new *MicroGrant* program, and the accompanying [Policy Documents](#).**

- 1) The UCH and CHCO CTCRCs are committed to offering use of its clinical facilities (outpatient clinic and inpatient rooms) at no room charge to investigators for investigator-initiated studies, multi-centered non-industry-funded studies and investigator-initiated industry-supported studies. Industry-initiated studies will continue to be charged facility utilization fees.
- 2) The UCH and CHCO CTCRCs are committed to supporting **currently active CTRC studies** at the level of support previously approved by SARC until the originally stated end-date or through June 30, 2015, whichever comes first. Payment for use of CTRC resources after that date will follow the process outlined below, although we will hold discussions with principal investigators of each active protocol to review the committed level of support and determine the most efficient manner to assist the investigator in completing the study. For currently active protocols, CTRC leadership will be contacting each investigator with an active protocol to review their budget and determine the best way for the CTRC to continue to support the study until completion. All questions can be sent to:  
UCH CTRC Protocols: Luke Gregory, 720-848-7168, [lucas.gregory@uch.edu](mailto:lucas.gregory@uch.edu)  
CHCO CTRC Protocols: Cassie Harvey, 720-777-2896, [cassie.harvey@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:cassie.harvey@childrenscolorado.org)
- 3) The CTRC announced last autumn that investigators of all new studies incorporating echocardiography or vascular imaging services would be responsible for paying research rates for those services; that policy remains in effect.

4) For all **new studies to be performed at UCH and CHCO CTRCs approved by SARC after February 25, 2013:**

- a) Investigators will be responsible for paying research rates for the following CTRC and Hospital services as of **July 1, 2013**: core laboratory services, echocardiography & vascular imaging services, exercise testing, calorimetry, DXA, and body composition analyses, and hospital clinical expenses (clinical laboratory charges, research pharmacy charges, radiology charges, specialized medical supplies, and other clinical charges) incurred during the conduct of their studies on the CTRC Inpatient or Outpatient units. It is important to note that the University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital Colorado provide very favorable research pricing and the CTRC Core Laboratory rates incorporate only the direct costs of the labor, reagents, and consumables required to complete the assays; there are no instrumentation or facility-related fees included in these rates. *MicroGrants* can be used to pay for these services and those listed under b and c.
- b) Beginning **July 1, 2014**, investigators will be responsible for paying research rates for Nutrition Core services, which we hope to offer at subsidized rates. Prior to July 1, 2014, Nutrition services will continue to be provided at no cost to the investigator.
- c) Beginning **July 1, 2015**, investigators will be responsible for paying subsidized research rates for CTRC research nursing services. Prior to July 1, 2015, CTRC research nursing will continue to be provided at no cost to the investigator.

**New grant applications.** Comprehensive rate schedules are being developed and will soon be posted on the [CTRC website](#). This will enable you to incorporate anticipated expenses into new grant applications and into budget calculations. CTRC staff members will be available to help calculate the projected costs of your studies.

5) A new CTRC [MicroGrant program](#) will be initiated this year to provide junior investigators with small grants that are to be used to pay for the CTRC services outlined above. Please visit the [CCTSI website](#) for information on the new CTRC *MicroGrant* program that will provide dedicated awards to eligible investigators to be utilized toward payment for the CTRC services and Hospital clinical charges outlined above.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience with the phased in implementation of this new Program Income System and our *MicroGrant* program. Town Hall meetings will be held soon by Dr. Ronald Sokol, CCTSI Director, to provide additional information and answer questions about these new policies.

Sincerely,

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