

Clinical Research Administration Newsletter

Winter 2019

Issue 4

Page 1



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ★ CLRA PROGRAM RANKED ONE OF THE TOP IN THE COUNTRY 2017, 2018, 2019

For more information on rankings, please visit:

https://www.emich.edu/chhs/hs/programs/clinical_research.php

- ★ JOB OPPORTUNITY: MICHIGAN MEDICINE CLINICAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Submit CV and cover letter to Allison Lin at:

leweil@med.umich.edu

- ★ ACCREDITATION UPDATE: The program will soon be applying for accreditation in a newly available accrediting process.

Please complete a survey we will be sending you shortly so we may determine how many our grads are working in the field. This is an important component of the accreditation process.

- ★ UPDATE US WITH YOUR NEW JOB OR CONTACT INFORMATION!

Contact Us:

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Email: clra_shs@emich.edu

FIRST STUDENT ENROLLED IN EMU'S MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING - CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSING PROGRAM

The new Master of Science in Nursing - Clinical Research Nursing (MSN-CRN) program combines two programs within the College of Health & Human Services. Core classes from the MSN program along with select classes from the Clinical Research Administration program have been woven together to create a new interdisciplinary master's degree. Dr. Michael Williams, the Director of the Nursing program said, "It's an exciting opportunity to work with a top program in the nation. It adds another layer of meaning and value to the nursing program here at EMU, and it will help meet the needs of the changing job market." Dr. Jean Rowan, the Director of the Clinical Research Administration program said, "When we heard that the American Nurses Association had recognized a new speciality, we realized there was an opportunity to work with the School of Nursing. Together we created the MSN-CRN program."



JILL BROWN, BS, RN

Jill Brown, BS, RN, is the first student to be accepted in the program. While working as a CRN Coordinator at St. Joseph Mercy Health in Ann Arbor, she became interested in pursuing her masters degree. According to Jill, "The MSN-CRN program at EMU is a unique blend of advanced nursing education and in-depth clinical research study management knowledge that will give me the skills needed to provide excellent care to the participants in the studies." She also mentions the curriculum is **well balanced and convenient** for a working nurse's schedule. The program consists of a hybrid of online classes and in-seat classes, and requires 35 total credit hours for completion.

As the "guinea pig" for this new program, Jill was worried that it would be difficult to transition from her nursing cohorts to the Clinical Research Administration program with a whole new group of students. However, her fears were unfounded as she **immediately felt welcomed** into the community. "Dr. Rowan creates a homey and warm classroom environment. Learning about each student on the first day and hearing about their **diverse personal and professional backgrounds** provides a unique learning experience that is well worth going outside of my comfort zone." Jill adds that, "All of the professors who teach in this program are caring individuals, knowledgeable in their subject areas and committed to our learning. I don't feel like just another student; **I am building relationships that will last beyond graduation.**"

Most Beneficial Topics for Jill

- Drug development,
- Laws and federal regulations
- Human subjects' protection

MSN-CRN Program Provides

- Foundation of knowledge
- Industry expectations
- Study management skills,
- Insight into the pharmaceutical industry
- Career stepping stone

If you are a student and aren't already working in the field, Jill **recommends the preceptorship** because it provides hands on experience and an opportunity to learn which direction you want to take your career. CRNs work in all different settings and medical specialties, the possibilities are almost endless. The demand for CRNs is high; with the foundations taught in this program along with hands on experience, one is sure to thrive in the industry!

For more information on the profession of Clinical Research Nursing, please visit:

https://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/nursing/crn/crn_2010.html



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Follow us on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/clinical-research-administration-266566130/>

RECENT PUBLICATION:

Aldinger, C., Bierer, B.E., Brower, R.J.N., Gluck, W., Jones, C.T., Kolb, R.H., Sonstein, S.A. (2018). Leveling the joint task force core competencies for clinical research professionals. *Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science*, 1(20). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2168479018799291>

ADVICE TO STUDENTS FROM A PEER

Kumar Reddy Lanki Reddy finished his coursework in the Clinical Research Administration program in April 2018. He has been a Clinical Subjects Coordinator for the past 5 months, and wants to share some wisdom with current students in the Clinical Research Administration program.

His first piece of advice is to **take the preceptorship!** These allow students to get hands on experience in Clinical Research Administration, and offers an introduction to unfamiliar software and lab procedures, like specimen handling, that are required by employers. After looking through 200-300 job postings, he learned that most require prior experience in the field, and list software necessary for the job. The majority of the jobs in the field are in data management and patient recruitment. It took Kumar about 3 months to find a job in the field without a preceptorship. The **timeline as international student** is especially pressing after graduation, as there are only a few months to find job placement. Whether a domestic or international student, a preceptorship will set the student apart from other applicants.

While looking through hundreds of job descriptions, Kumar realized almost all of the jobs require **skills in statistics and data management**. While Kumar attended Eastern Michigan University, statistics and technical skills were offered but not required for graduation in the program. While applying for jobs, he used a website called [Coursera.org](https://www.coursera.org) to learn statistics and programming skills demanded by the job market. This website offers various online courses an individual can take to learn skills at his or her own pace. Monthly membership is \$49/month for a Data Management course offered by Vanderbilt University, and includes certificates of completion and free access to Redcap software. If you don't need either of these, Coursera is a free platform for learning, and a great way to continue education.

There are **software programs used in Clinical Research Administration** that students should have a basic to intermediate understanding of: MS Office applications, particularly Excel and Access are frequently used; OpenClinica, RedCap, MediData and separate platforms for regulatory submissions are commonly used in the industry. Kumar also uses Qualtrics as well as SPSS and SAS regularly. He wishes that he had **more experience** with these software programs that he would have been exposed to during a preceptorship.



KUMAR REDDY LANKI REDDY

NEW GRADUATES 2018



Masters of Science in CRA

Soumya Balachandran
Nicholas Hill
Aneta Leavitt
DeQuindalyn Moore
Santhosh Reddy Mukkisa
Pallavi Neeraj
Vamsi Vardhan Niraghatam
Shashikiran Pathakamudi
Saikavya Bekal Rao

Graduate Certificate in GCP

Vibha Sharma
Sunil Upadhyay

COURSES 2019

Summer Courses in the Works!

CLRA 550: Preceptorship in Clinical Trial Management (3)
CLRA 562: GCP Audits: Compliance Fraud and Misconduct (2)
CLRA 585: Regulatory Writing & Electronic Submissions (2)

Fall Courses Set in Stone!

CLRA 510: Intro to Drug Development (3)
CLRA 520: Clinical Study Admin I (3)
CLRA 601: Graduate Seminar in Drug Development(1)
CLRA 685: Research Proposal Development (1)
CLRA 561: Legal & Management Issues in Clinical Research (3)
CLRA 582: Regulatory Affairs & Drug Development II (3)