

VCU Clinical Trials

Virginia Commonwealth University researchers, through the Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR), conduct clinical trials to find new ways to fight diseases. By participating in these trials, members of the community can help researchers find tomorrow's treatments today.

Clinical trials study whether new drugs, treatments or interventions are both safe and effective. All trials are conducted with the help of research volunteers from the community. Some studies involve healthy volunteers. Some of these studies evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a new treatment for a condition for which no current treatment exists, while others compare standard treatments for a disease to newly developed therapies.

Volunteers are the only way for medical breakthroughs to reach the public. Clinical trials need volunteers of all ages and backgrounds in order to help researchers develop new and better treatments.

For more information about clinical trials at VCU, visit go.vcu.edu/clinicaltrials.

Why volunteer?

There are many reasons why people choose to participate in a clinical trial. A few examples include:

- Some people have a condition that is being treated effectively but want to help doctors find out more about it in order to develop new treatments.
- Sometimes people have a friend or loved one with an illness or injury and they want to participate in a research study as a way of honoring that person and helping others who may suffer from the same condition.
- It may be that there is no effective treatment for an illness or injury or that the existing treatment has harsh side effects. Participating in a clinical trial may offer potential treatment options that might otherwise be unavailable.
- Many people choose to participate in a study even though it might not help them directly. Knowing that others may be able to benefit from their efforts can be a rewarding experience.

Each one of us benefits every day from clinical research. Blood pressure medicine, breast cancer treatment, asthma inhalers, the latest Alzheimer's drug — all of these are available to you because of clinical trials that show they are safe and effective. None of them would be possible without volunteers who were willing to take part in a clinical trial.

