

The Emergency Department Research Associate Program is a valuable tool allowing researchers from within and outside of the University of Rochester access to a substantial, unique and diverse patient population.

There are reasonable fees associated with utilizing the EDRA Program for subject identification and enrollment. This fee varies depending on the complexity of study procedures and the type of funding support. For more information or to receive a quote for services, contact the EM Research Office.



Emergency Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center – Research Starts Here

Just as the Emergency Department is the first care for over 100,000 patients each year, we are also a key entry point for clinical research.

To get started utilizing the EDRA program to identify and enroll for your study contact:

EMResearch@urmc.rochester.edu

Or call (585) 275-1198

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MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

Emergency Department Research Associate Program



Department of Emergency Medicine

Research Starts Here!



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Program Overview

The Emergency Department Research Associate (EDRA) Program is a resource available to investigators who wish to harness the more than 200,000 patients seen in the Strong Memorial Hospital and Highland Hospital Emergency Departments each year. The program, begun in 1996, has successfully screened, consented and enrolled thousands of patients into dozens of studies of varying complexity.

What We Offer to Investigators

- Access to a diverse Emergency Department patient population.
- 25 undergraduate research enrollers who have completed a rigorous 30 hour training program.
- Excellent screening and enrollment rates during peak patient volume hours.
- Robust quality assurance and improvement process to monitor protocol compliance and documentation accuracy.
- Dedicated administrative staff including a PhD research faculty member to oversee the program.
- Umbrella RSRB approval for the use of the EDRA program for subject consent and enrollment.

Quality Assurance and Improvement

The EDRA program has a robust quality assurance and improvement process that ensures research protocols are followed and that regular feedback is provided to Research Associates on performance. The QI process also allows us to provide investigators with regular reports on study progress, enrollment data, and the successes and challenges faced in the ED by our research associates. A large part of our quality improvement strategy is centered on continuously evolving and improving the study processes that we utilize, ensuring investigators receive peak performance from the program.

Recruitment and Enrollment

Our research team will work with you to put together an effective recruitment strategy, specific for the enrollment of your study in the Emergency Department. From your protocol, we will create detailed enrollment procedures, as well as plan and execute training sessions for our staff. These initial efforts lead to smooth implementation and fewer initial challenges to successful study enrollment. We offer enrollment coverage from 08:00am to 12:00am (midnight), 7 days a week in the Strong Memorial Hospital ED and coverage from 10:00am-6:00pm, 7 days a week in the Highland Hospital ED. These hours represent peak patient volumes. Our program has seen dozens of studies to completion, including FDA funded trials, medical device trials, and therapeutic drug trials, in addition to cross-sectional and prospective survey studies.

What training do EDRA's receive?

Research Associates are initially trained in fundamental concepts of clinical research, confidentiality, consent and procedural skills followed by a continuous learning model that provides them with ongoing research education, study specific training and quality improvement driven learning. Additional training includes: certification through the Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP), thorough review of HIPPA policies, and study specific tasks including but not limited to coordination of blood draws with clinical staff, nasal swabs/washes, throat swabs, EEG device testing, and survey completion.

Who do we employ?

The EDRA program employs University of Rochester undergraduate students to function as research associates. All of our employees are active members of the university community who dedicate their time to a myriad of extracurricular and scholarly activities. Many of our research associates are focused on pre-medical studies and are aspiring to careers in medicine and research.

