The sole purpose of CRI is to advance the research mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and specifically the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, Charleston, South Carolina through the support of research-related activities.

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Website: http://www.charleston.va.gov/research/Charleston_Research_Institute_CRI.asp

Combined Federal Campaign

We are pleased to announce that CHARLESTON RESEARCH INSTITUTE has been approved as a CFC recipient for the 5th year in a row. Federal employees who contribute to CFC can designate that their donations be directed to CRI.

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost–efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. Pledges made during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non–profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits in our community.

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What is CRI?

Charleston Research Institute (CRI) is a South Carolina 501 c(3) nonprofit corporation (NPC) affiliated with Ralph H. Johnson VAMC. It is one of over 80 VA-affiliated NPCs that administer VA-approved research studies.

Incorporated since 1997, CRI employs research coordinators, research assistants, research technicians, and staff who work as a team with VA & MUSC employees with WOC appointments.

Study sponsors include pharmaceutical/industry, foundations, federal government agencies, institutes, & universities.

Who is funding CRI studies?

“NPCs exist to provide VA medical centers with flexible funding mechanisms for the conduct of, and to facilitate functions related to the conduct of, approved research and education at one or more VA medical centers. NPCs are not owned or controlled by the Federal government, nor are they an agency or instrumentality of the Federal government.”

VHA HANDBOOK 1200.17

What can CRI do for me?

CRI offers these comprehensive research administration services:

- Study contract negotiation
- Budgeting and invoicing
- Human resources
- Fiscal oversight
- 20% industry-sponsored; 23% federally-funded grant indirect cost rates
For the first time ever, CRI exceeded $1 million in revenues in fiscal year 2010.

Thanks to our Principal Investigators who continue to allow CRI the opportunity to administer their studies.

Talk to your colleagues listed on the following page to find out how you can become a CRI PI.

$1 MILLION in 2010!

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CRI Employee Benefits

Beginning in 2011, CRI employees were eligible for employer-paid health insurance and optional dental, vision, long term disability, and supplemental life insurance.

CRI has partnered with TriNet payroll services which allows employees to have online access for all their HR needs.

Additionally, CRI employees enjoy a 4% match on employee contributions they make to a 401k plan.
Become a CRI Investigator

Studies that include VA resources including VA patients, VA space and/or VA time are eligible to be administered through Charleston Research Institute. Look who is using CRI:

**Cardiology**
Valerian Fernandes, M.D.
Terrence X. O’Brien, M.D.

**Endocrinology**
Maria Lopes-Vecilla, M.D., Ph.D.
Louis B. Luttrell, M.D.
Jeremy B. Soule, M.D.

**General Internal Medicine**
Shakaib Rehman, M.D.
Renee P. Meyer, M.D.

**Hematology / Oncology**
Rayna Kneuper-Hall, M.D.
Neeta Somaiah, M.D.

**Immunology**
Gary S. Gilkeson, M.D.

**Infectious Diseases**
Joseph F. John, Jr., M.D.

**Otolaryngology**
Jennifer Mulligan, Ph.D.
Rodney Schlosser, M.D.
M. Rita I. Young, Ph.D.

**Psychiatry**
Ron Acierno, Ph.D.
Olga Brawman-Mintzer, M.D.

**Psychiatry**
Mark B. Hamner, M.D.
Jacobo E. Mintzer, M.D.
Hugh Myrick, M.D.
Kathryn VanKirk, Ph.D.

**Urology**
Stephen J. Savage, M.D.

**Comparative Medicine**
Kathy Laber, D.V.M., M.S.

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2010 Ralph H. Johnson VAMC Student Research Awards

1st Place Poster Presentation Winner
Kathryn Cribben (C) with CRI Executive Director, Kelly Cochran (L), and MUSC Provost, Dr. Mark Sothmann, (R)

1st Place Oral Presentation Winner
Erin Morris

2nd Place Poster Presentation Winner
Amanda Northup

2nd Place Oral Presentation Winner
Adrian Sproul

For the past 5 years, CRI has sponsored Ralph H. Johnson VAMC Student Research Awards in collaboration with MUSC on their annual Student Research Day. In addition to cash prizes, each winner’s name is engraved on a perpetual plaque on display in the VA Research Administration office. Students must have a VAMC mentor and acknowledge VAMC in their presentation in order to be eligible for these awards.

Save the date Friday, November 4, 2011 for this year’s Student Research Day Awards!