



Inaugural Chief Clinical Trials Officer
The University of Oklahoma Health Campus
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

THE SEARCH

The University of Oklahoma Health Campus (Health Campus) seeks an inaugural Chief Clinical Trials Officer (CCTO) to design and scale a coordinated, system-wide clinical trials enterprise. This is a role for a hands-on builder and experienced clinical trialist who is energized by the opportunity to shape a program at an inflection point and translate strong existing assets into sustained, measurable growth.

The Health Campus and OU Health bring meaningful strengths. Clinical trials are active across multiple departments, supported by a large patient population with strong potential for accrual. The OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center (Cancer Center) serves as a clear proof point, particularly in Phase I trials, demonstrating the impact of focused infrastructure, operational discipline, and leadership. Additional experience exists across cardiology, pediatrics, and community-based research, supported by core elements including IRB and compliance functions, research staff, and IDeA-CTR infrastructure.

Clinical trials activity reflects both established success and significant opportunity for expansion. Early-phase work at the Cancer Center underscores what is possible with aligned leadership and infrastructure. Beyond that, activity across trial phases and departments has evolved locally, creating a broad but uneven base. The next phase is to intentionally expand into later-phase, comparative effectiveness, and population-focused clinical trials, alongside continued growth in NIH-supported research to increase trial volume, diversify the portfolio, and drive consistency across the system.

Institutional leadership is aligned around building on this foundation to develop a more coordinated model that strengthens performance, improves efficiency, and expands access to trials. The CCTO will play a central role in shaping that next phase, with a mandate to align stakeholders, standardize key processes, and drive system-wide improvement. The CCTO will work in close partnership with institutional leadership and will be supported in advancing system-wide alignment and operational improvements.

This opportunity is further amplified by broader institutional investment. The University's [Project 200](#) initiative will recruit approximately 200 leading researchers, including 50 clinical trialists, and significantly

expand research capacity. The ability to support and scale clinical trials will be critical to the success of this effort.

As an inaugural leader, the CCTO will operate at the intersection of strategy and execution, working across the Health Campus, the College of Medicine, OU Health, and departments to define governance, align incentives, and build a more coordinated clinical trials enterprise.

Applicants should hold an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent terminal degree and be eligible for appointment at the associate or full professor level. The successful candidate will be an experienced clinical trialist with a track record of building and leading clinical trial programs, improving operational performance, and working effectively across academic, healthcare, and community settings. They will bring credibility to engage clinicians, investigators, and institutional leadership, along with experience developing teams and supporting broader participation in clinical research.

This is an opportunity to define how clinical trials are organized and delivered across the institution while expanding their scope, scale, and impact.

The University of Oklahoma Health Campus has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications will be treated confidentially and should be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH CAMPUS

The [University of Oklahoma Health Campus](#) brings together the Colleges of [Medicine](#), [Allied Health](#), [Dentistry](#), [Nursing](#), [Pharmacy](#), [Public Health](#), and the [Graduate College](#), alongside major research and clinical centers, including the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center and the Stephenson Cancer Center.

The Health Campus operates with an annual budget of approximately \$900 million and includes more than 800 full-time faculty and 3,500 staff. The campus supports a broad academic and clinical enterprise and educates nearly 4,000 students and approximately 1,000 residents, fellows, and postdoctoral trainees.

The Health Campus is led by Gary E. Raskob, PhD, Senior Vice President and Provost, who oversees academic and research programs across the seven colleges and provides strategic leadership for campus-wide research initiatives.

The College of Medicine is led by Ian F. Dunn, MD, who serves as Executive Dean, Chief Academic Officer, and Chief Physician Executive of OU Health. Under his leadership, the College anchors the Health Campus's research enterprise and has prioritized growth in diabetes and metabolic disease, cancer, neuroscience, and population health.

RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The College of Medicine (College) holds the largest portfolio of National Institutes of Health funding in the state, with approximately \$72.3 million in annual support following recent growth. The College is ranked 65th nationally and is pursuing continued expansion of extramural funding and visibility, aiming to reach the top 50.

Priority research areas include cancer, diabetes and metabolic disease, neuroscience and vision, and infectious diseases and immunology. The College maintains a broad base of basic and clinical investigators across these areas, supported by the largest biomedical research infrastructure in Oklahoma.

As part of the NIH IDeA (Institutional Development Award) state network, the College supports three Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE) grants in cancer, geroscience, and microbiology, along with an IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) grant that extends research capacity statewide. Additional distinctions include T32 training programs and designation as a [Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in the Biology of Aging Research](#).

These assets position the College to expand its translational research footprint. Realizing this potential will require greater coordination, scale, and alignment of clinical research and clinical trials activity across the health system.

The research leadership infrastructure continues to evolve and mature, with the addition of a Vice Dean for Research within the College of Medicine and a university-wide Vice President for Research and Partnerships. These roles are designed to accelerate research growth, strengthen coordination, and align strategy across the Health Sciences Center and the University's campuses. Together, they reflect a more integrated and ambitious approach to building OU's research enterprise and underscore the importance of advancing a similarly coordinated model for clinical research and clinical trials.

Research Infrastructure and Shared Resources

The research enterprise is supported by centralized resources that enable clinical and translational research.

The [Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources](#) (OSCTR) provides infrastructure, expertise, and coordination across the research lifecycle, including study design, clinical research operations, and workforce development. The [Office of Research Administration](#) provides centralized pre- and post-award support and regulatory oversight.

The [University Research Park](#) further expands capacity, with more than 700,000 square feet of laboratory and office space supporting both academic research and commercialization.

Together, these resources provide a strong platform for growth and highlight the opportunity to better integrate infrastructure and support system-wide clinical research expansion.

Academic and Research Environment

The College of Medicine includes nearly 1,350 faculty across 23 departments on the Oklahoma City and 8 departments on the Tulsa campus.

It supports 83 residency and fellowship programs and trains approximately 766 residents and fellows annually. More than half remain in Oklahoma, reflecting the College's role in building the state's physician workforce.

Institutional strategy emphasizes growth in extramural funding, expansion of clinical trials, and recruitment of research-active faculty aligned with priority areas.

The Health System

OU Health is the state's flagship comprehensive academic health system, with approximately 10,000 employees and more than 1,300 physicians and advanced practice providers, supporting over one million ambulatory visits annually. Key assets include:

- The [Oklahoma Children's Hospital](#), the state's only dedicated free-standing children's hospital
- The [University of Oklahoma Medical Center](#), the state's premier Level 1 Trauma Center
- The [OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center](#)
- The [OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center](#), the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center
- The [OU Health Dean McGee Eye Institute](#)

OU Health maintains affiliations with the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center and regional partners.

Jonathan Curtright, MBA, MHA, will assume the role of President and CEO effective July 1, 2026.

Clinical Trials Enterprise

The current clinical trials activity reflects a combination of established strength and opportunity for greater coordination. The Stephenson Cancer Center represents the most developed and integrated model, with strong early-phase capabilities and a mature operational infrastructure. Its approach provides a model that can be extended across other disease areas. Beyond oncology, activity is more distributed. Departments maintain local teams and processes, while centralized resources provide shared support in study design, regulatory guidance, and data management. In practice, these efforts function as a mix of centralized and department-based activity, with variable adoption of shared infrastructure. This creates a strong but not yet fully aligned foundation for clinical trials across the institution. The next phase is clear:

align existing resources, introduce greater consistency, and scale clinical trials across disciplines. The CCTO will lead this effort.

THE ROLE OF THE CHIEF CLINICAL TRIALS OFFICER

The first Chief Clinical Trials Officer will serve as a senior leader for clinical research across the Health Campus and OU Health. The CCTO will report ultimately to the Executive Dean of the College of Medicine and Chief Physician Executive of OU Health, Dr. Ian Dunn, and work in close partnership with leadership across the Health Campus, the College, OU Health, and the broader research enterprise.

The CCTO will be responsible for defining and implementing a more coordinated clinical trials model, building on existing strengths while enabling growth in scale, scope, and performance. This includes aligning departmental programs, centralized resources, and health system operations to improve the consistency and effectiveness of clinical trials across the institution.

Working closely with department chairs, center directors, and research and clinical leaders, the CCTO will partner with key groups, including the OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center, the Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources, and institutional research and administrative functions, to advance clinical trials priorities. The CCTO will lead efforts to strengthen core components of clinical trials infrastructure, including study start-up, contracting, budgeting, regulatory support, clinical operations, and data management, with a focus on improving efficiency, quality, and the investigator and sponsor experience.

Over time, the CCTO will build and oversee a team to support these efforts – including shared operational leadership, clinical research staff, and support functions – and will have the ability to recruit a senior operational leader to partner in managing day-to-day execution. As an inaugural leader, the CCTO will define the operating model for clinical trials across the institution, working in a complex, distributed environment to align stakeholders, implement systems, and expand participation in clinical research.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The CCTO will be charged with building a more coordinated, scalable clinical trials enterprise across the Health Campus and OU Health. Drawing on existing strengths, including a highly developed model at the Cancer Center, they will lead the next phase of growth by improving operational consistency, expanding participation across departments, and strengthening the institution's ability to attract and execute clinical trials.

Success will depend on aligning stakeholders, strengthening core processes, and advancing a more integrated approach to clinical trials delivery in support of the institution's broader research ambitions.

To achieve these goals, the CCTO will address the following key opportunities and challenges:

Build and lead a unified system-wide clinical trials enterprise

Clinical trials activity across the Health Campus and OU Health spans departments, centers, and shared institutional resources. The inaugural CCTO will align these efforts into a more coordinated enterprise that supports consistency, scale, and broader participation while maintaining strengths in specialty-based and investigator-driven research. This will require bringing greater clarity and cohesion to a model that has developed organically across a complex academic and health system environment. The goal is to foster growth across the enterprise, and all changes must drive in that direction. This will likely involve recruiting leaders within the CCTO office to build a robust team of professionals.

Improve operational performance and accelerate trial execution

Operational performance varies across programs, particularly in study start-up, contracting, budgeting, regulatory support, and execution. The CCTO will establish clearer workflows, define accountability, and strengthen operational support to improve speed, consistency, and quality across the trials lifecycle. This work will also require a more service-oriented approach to clinical trials operations, ensuring investigators and research staff experience processes that are clear, responsive, and supportive. It will require improving understanding of clinical trials processes so investigators and staff can better navigate requirements such as IRB review, submission expectations, and timelines. Scaling clinical trials activity will require stronger financial management and more consistent infrastructure. Priorities include budgeting, cost recovery, financial tracking, and administrative support.

The Cancer Center demonstrates what coordinated infrastructure and execution can deliver, supporting approximately 400 trials annually with high patient participation and a highly developed early-phase program. The opportunity is to apply these approaches more consistently across other departments and clinical areas.

Build workforce capacity, mentorship, and a clinical trials training pipeline

Sustained growth will require expanding the clinical trials workforce across investigators, coordinators, research nurses, and operational leaders. The CCTO will strengthen recruitment, retention, and development while creating clearer pathways for faculty participation across departments. This includes building structured training and mentorship programs and establishing a more consistent approach to supporting investigators and research staff across the trials lifecycle. The CCTO will build and execute a clinical trials “bootcamp” for new investigators to facilitate a comprehensive knowledge of the systems in place and current expectations.

Advance interdisciplinary and external partnerships

External partnerships, including industry sponsors, research networks, and community-based collaborators, will be critical to expanding access to trials across Oklahoma. The CCTO will strengthen collaboration across departments, centers, and external partners. The College’s existing research

strengths provide a foundation for expanding interdisciplinary clinical research across priority areas. The CCTO will work closely with leaders across the COM and university to identify potential partnerships and build relationships.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate will bring many of the following experiences, skills, and qualities:

- MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent terminal degree and be eligible for appointment at the associate or full professor level; board certification and licensure eligibility as applicable
- Established clinical trialist with experience across investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored studies
- Demonstrated ability to build and scale clinical trials programs or infrastructure
- Operational leader with experience improving clinical trials performance
- Ability to translate strategy into execution and measurable outcomes
- Experience designing organizational and support models for clinical trials
- Effectiveness in complex, matrixed environments
- Credibility with clinicians and investigators across disciplines
- Experience recruiting, mentoring, and developing teams
- Financial and business acumen related to clinical trials
- Ability to establish governance and bring structure to evolving environments
- Strong judgment and ability to operate in ambiguity
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills
- High integrity and accountability

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City, the capital and largest city in the state, anchors a growing metropolitan area of more than 1.5 million residents and offers a rare combination of momentum, livability, and affordability. The region enjoys a mild climate with abundant sunshine and long spring and fall seasons that support year-round outdoor activity, complemented by more than 75,000 acres of parks and trails and the nationally recognized Oklahoma River corridor for rowing, kayaking, cycling, and major sporting events.

Over the past two decades, Oklahoma City has experienced sustained civic and economic transformation driven by long-term public investment and population growth. With a collaborative culture, expanding research and innovation ecosystem, and continued investment in infrastructure, Oklahoma City offers an appealing environment for academic leaders seeking both professional opportunity and livability.

For more information on Oklahoma City please visit:

<https://www.okcchamber.com/>
www.visitokc.com/
www.abetterlifeokc.com/

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the search process is complete. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-oklahoma-health-sciences/chief-clinical-trials-officer>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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The University, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, gender identity/expression (consistent with applicable law), age (40 or older), religion, disability, political beliefs, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, housing, financial aid, and educational services.

Why You Belong at the University of Oklahoma:

The University of Oklahoma values our community's unique talents, perspectives, and experiences. At OU, we aspire to harness our innovation, creativity, and collaboration for the advancement of people everywhere. You Belong Here!

Mission of the University of Oklahoma:

The Mission of the University of Oklahoma is to provide the best possible educational experience for our students through excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and service to the state and society.

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