

## The Facts About Clinical Research



What comes to your mind when you think about a clinical research trial? Some experimental drug being given to poor human guinea pigs at death's doorstep in some huge medical university? If that is your perception of clinical research trials, you will be surprised to know that this describes only a small portion of clinical research. It may also surprise you to learn that there is a high quality, cutting edge, important research going on right here in your own backyard. In my years of practicing, I have conducted over 35 clinical trials and presently have 8 ongoing trials and two upcoming in the near future through my research facility, Southeastern Medical Research Institute.

Why are clinical research trials important? Every drug you take and every drug that is on the market is a product of a clinical research trial. Clinical research trials ensure that drugs are safe and effective and help get newer and more effective drugs to the marketplace for you, me and our families. There are approximately 50,000 clinical trials going on in the United States today, with being as many as 80% delayed because of unfulfilled enrollment (Source: CenterWatch). Most people do not know how to get involved but it is not only the lay public. Only 13% of physicians serve as clinical investigators, most stating time commitment and difficulty getting started as the main barriers.

Here are some basic facts about clinical research trials you should know.

- Clinical research trials are important to maintain the development of new, more effective drugs.
- Volunteer's rights are protected by FDA, NIH and Institutional Review Boards by overseeing research facilities and reviewing and approving study protocols to ensure a trial is ethical, safe and that volunteer's rights are preserved.
- Every effort is made to minimize risks and side effects.
- Volunteers may benefit not only from having access to potential new treatments before the general public, but also by gaining valuable information and testing for general medical conditions and your health.
- There is never any cost to a volunteer for participating in a clinical research trial. All visits, testing and medication are provided at no charge and in many cases participants can be paid for their time and travel expenses.

I urge you to find out more about clinical research trials and consider participating in this important endeavor. If you are interested in finding out more or would like to inquire about participating in present and upcoming studies you may call (706) 243-3669 or visit our website at [www.southeasternmedicalresearchinstitute.com](http://www.southeasternmedicalresearchinstitute.com).

References:

*Education before Participation.* [www.ciscrp.org](http://www.ciscrp.org)  
Thomson CenterWatch. [www.centerwatch.com](http://www.centerwatch.com)

## Research News

Southeastern Medical Research Institute is currently enrolling in the following clinical research trials:



- BPH (enlarged prostate)
- Nocturia (frequent nighttime urination)
- Post Menopause (vaginal dryness, itching, painful urination)
- Adult Growth Hormone Deficiency
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Prostate Cancer with and without metastasis (cancer spread to bones)
- Chronic Prostatitis

If you are eligible to participate in a clinical study all physicals, labs, diagnostics, study related procedures and medications are given to you at no charge! If you are interested in learning more please call Stephanie Thomas, LPN, CCRC at **(706) 243-3669** or visit our website at [www.southeasternmedicalresearchinstitute.com](http://www.southeasternmedicalresearchinstitute.com).

## Community Relations

We are excited to announce a 2007 calendar of FREE patient education seminars given by the office of Dr. Harper. Each month a new topic related to your urological care will be discussed along with refreshments and door prizes to be given away. Please call 706-324-7700 to reserve your seat for each individual seminar.

- May 29<sup>th</sup> - **Female Incontinence**
- June 21<sup>st</sup> - **Erectile Restoration\***  
*\*Guest Speaker will be former KANSAS drummer Denis Holt*
- July 31<sup>st</sup> - **Symptomatic Enlarged Prostate**
- August 28<sup>th</sup> - **Erectile Dysfunction**
- September 18<sup>th</sup> - **Prostate Cancer - Early Detection & Treatment Options**  
(Prostate Cancer Awareness Week)
- October 30<sup>th</sup> - **Clinical Research Studies**
- November 20<sup>th</sup> - **Interstitial Cystitis**



Please feel free to bring a friend, colleague and/or loved one. The sole goal of our patient education seminars is to provide the public with the information and knowledge necessary to make intelligent, well-informed decisions regarding their health. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Urology Center of Columbus, LLC

1021 Talbotton Road  
Columbus, GA 31904