VA PORTLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (VAPORHCS)
Job Vacancy List

This document is updated as vacancies become available, please check back often. Application instructions are unique to each vacancy, please read each vacancy carefully.

Quick Links: Clinical Research  Biomedical Research  Administration  PVARF

Clinical Research

Health Technician, full-time, $38,803 (GS-6) / $43,120 (GS-7) + Benefits
Under the supervision of the VA PI for the CART (Collaborative Aging Research Using Technology) initiative, a Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) project, the Technical Research Assistant serves the CART project which intendeds to advance the scientific understanding of common and important health care problems and conditions that affect Veterans. This research will create a nationwide home-based system for research that will determine how we can optimally enhance the health and wellbeing of all older adults. This position will require driving to Portland VA study participant homes, up to 250 miles away from Portland.

Research Assistant, full-time, $38,022 (GS-6) / $46,793 (GS-7) / $51,683 (GS-9) + Benefits
We have multiple Research Assistant/Associate positions open on several projects intended to advance the scientific understanding of common and important health care problems and conditions that affect Veterans. Current research topics include pain, suicide prevention, whole health, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Some study and center-related activities will involve working directly with Veterans to enhance Veteran engagement in care and Veteran engagement in research.

Clinical Research Health Technician, full-time, $43,932 + Benefits
The incumbent will support one or more Local Site Investigators (LSI) in the support of one or more VA Cooperative Studies Programs (CSP) randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial and/or interventional clinical trials involving experimental and observational research in healthcare. The incumbent will primarily be working with a diversified population of United States Veterans. This work may include some local travel and with other collaborating research institutions in the Portland, Oregon/SW Washington region, including VAPORHCS Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

Health Science Specialist, full-time, $52,745 + Benefits
The Research Associate will serve multiple projects intended to advance the scientific understanding of common and important health care problems and conditions that affect Veterans. Current research includes projects related to Veteran-centric care and strategies to enhance Veteran-clinician collaboration,
as well as studies of pain, and suicide prevention, whole health, and ehealth technologies.

Health Science Specialist, full-time, $65,017 + Benefits
The incumbent will support Local Site Investigators (LSIs) in the coordination of one or more VA Cooperative Studies Programs (CSP) randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial and/or interventional clinical trial involving experimental and observational research in healthcare. The incumbent will primarily be working with a diversified population of United States Veterans, as well as the potential of working within the community and with other collaborating research institutions in the Portland, Oregon/SW Washington region, including the VAPORHCS Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) within the Portland, Oregon Metro area.

Biomedical Research
No current openings

Administration Positions
No current openings

Portland VA Research Foundation Positions
Additional career opportunities can be found at the VAPORHCS affiliate non-profit Web site at: http://www.pvarf.org/careers.php
Title: Research Nurse Coordinator
Salary Commensurate with Education and Experience ($67,652-$113,737) + Benefits
FTE: 1.0

Research and Development Service, located within the VA Portland Health Care System (in Portland, Oregon), is recruiting for a full-time Nurse Care Manager (NCM) for a clinical research project. The incumbent will provide clinical services as part of a randomized clinical trial aimed at improving the safety of prescription opioid medications for patients with chronic pain.

The NCM will conduct initial assessments of patients with chronic pain to assess issues related to medication safety. The NCM will track patients enrolled in the trial and offer decision support to primary care clinical teams. The NCM will document all services provided to patients in a research database.

Basic Entry Level Requirements:
Applicants must be graduates from a school of professional nursing approved by the appropriate State-accrediting agency and accredited by one of the following accrediting bodies at the time the program was completed by the applicant: The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); have a current, full, active, and unrestricted registration as a graduate professional nurse in a State, Territory or Commonwealth (i.e., Puerto Rico) of the United States, or the District of Columbia (in cases of graduates of foreign schools of professional nursing, possession of current, full, active and unrestricted registration will meet the requirement of graduation from an approved school of professional nursing); must be proficient in spoken and written English and must be a citizen of the United States.

The Nurse Care Manager will have clinical training as a registered nurse and have a clinical background in chronic disease management and outpatient treatment. The preferred candidate will have experience working with patients with chronic pain, substance use disorders, and/or prior experience in clinical research.

How to Apply:
Interested candidates should send a resume/CV and cover letter to Melissa Adams, M.A., Study Coordinator, melissa.adams1@va.gov.
Title: Health Technician
Clinical Research Assistant

Expected Salary: $43,932 year + Benefits
FTE: 1.0

Position Summary
This is a Clinical Research position is located in the Research and Development Service of the Veterans Administration Portland Healthcare Systems (VAPORHCS) in Portland, Oregon. The incumbent will support one or more Local Site Investigators (LSI) in the support of one or more VA Cooperative Studies Programs (CSP) randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial and/or interventional clinical trials involving experimental and observational research in healthcare. The incumbent will primarily be working with a diversified population of United States Veterans. This work may include some local travel and with other collaborating research institutions in the Portland, Oregon/SW Washington region, including VAPORHCS Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

This position will entail assisting in the coordination, management and execution of multiple elements in human subjects’ research, with primary emphasis on enrollment, regulatory compliance, data quality, and other approved enhancements of research efforts. Successful candidates must be comfortable stepping in as a CSP support study staff facilitator on short notice. Flexibility, time management and a team-based aptitude are key.

Job Requirements
- Bachelor’s degree; preferably in a scientific or social science discipline (e.g., public health, biology, psychology/psychiatry/mental health, sociology, hematology/oncology, cardiology, endocrinology, endoscopy, gastroenterology, geriatrics, nephrology, pulmonology, rheumatology, or similar field).
- Previous experience with human subjects’ research, including but not limited to knowledge of Good Clinical Practices (GCP), patient screening and informed consent, baseline, pre, post and follow-up interviewing, IRB, regulatory documentation,
- Experience working with clinicians, engineers, scientists, specialists, pre- and postdoctoral student trainees and technicians and other other staff affiliates in associated with clinical trial research.
- Work independently and as part of a team
- Take initiative to take on new and varied tasks associated with implementation of novel research
- Proficient with: MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, MS Outlook, PowerPoint; a working knowledge of CPRS, VISTA, and other VA databases, and statistical programs a plus.
- Quickly learn new computer skills specific to the project.
- Communicate effectively and empathetically with patients and staff from diverse backgrounds
- Extremely detail oriented
Accurately transcribe and input written and recorded data into a database
Excellent customer service and patient centered focus.
Preferred experience in: (a) research investigatory processes; (b) study interviewing, including psychological and surgical survey administration; (c) compilation of data and development; (d) standard clinical procedures and clinical care sufficient to carry out routine clinical tasks, which may include collection of biological specimens (e.g. blood/phlebotomy); administration of routine clinical tests (e.g. weighing participants); multi-site studies; pharmaceutical, genomic, surgical/procedural, mental health and/or standard-of-care research programs, including randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial and/or interventional clinical trial.

Detailed Description
- Manage administrative requirements involving the Central and local VA IRBs. Maintain organized, accurate and IRB compliant study records.
- Coordinate and schedule multiple subject visits including following VA policies for processing patient reimbursements (when appropriate).
- Recruit patients in the VA community, including initial screening and engaging with the Veteran population.
- Review medical records and analyzes the patient population for research and recruitment purposes (inclusion/exclusion criteria),
- Conduct informed consent and administer surveys to study subjects, including baseline and follow-up, which may include in-person, teleconferencing and telephone communication.
- Assess the operational status of test equipment to ensure tests are conducted within appropriate limits.
- Execute safe, optimal testing; maintain research or laboratory environment in terms of equipment, supplies, calibration, and safety.
- Administer test procedures, which may include collecting, securing, processing, and shipping of blood/specimen samples; performing routine clinical tests.
- Develop and maintain electronic databases; assist and promote equipment interfacing and data compatibility within the research program.
- Provide timely assistance to the Local Site Investigator (LSI), the local CSP and other team members.
- Promote optimal utilization of the efforts of the staff and systems integration for optimal utilization throughout the research program(s) in support of CSP.
- Effectively coordinate multiple administrative tasks.
- Participate in regularly scheduled multi-site investigator and/or facilitator conference calls; Attend regular clinical and research team meetings.
- Maintaining local site documentation and records, adhering all regulatory requirements
- Respond to general inquiries from study participants and family members, research and clinical staff and other study personnel; assisting with training
personnel, including the consideration of the relative needs for services within the research program(s).

- Assist in coordinating the work for the research team, including multidisciplinary teams of clinicians, technicians, and students in research activities of the assigned CSP.
- Respond to other research-related tasks as assigned.

**Physical Demands**

- The work is mainly sedentary with some walking, lifting, pushing and standing. Because the research may involve disabled and/or hospitalized patients, this position occasionally requires the ability to assist patients, if needed, during interactions (e.g., with transfers) and/or interventions.

**Work Environment**

- The environment involves everyday risks or discomforts that require normal safety precautions typical of such places as offices, meeting and training rooms, libraries, residences, or commercial vehicles, e.g., use of safe work practices with office equipment, avoidance of trips and falls, observance of fire regulations and traffic signals.
- The work area is adequately lighted, heated, and ventilated. Instructing subjects during research appointments may require demonstration of equipment or interventions. Some work is performed in the presence of study participants most often considered not to have a communicable disease but this possibility can exist.

Interested candidates should send a resume/CV to Tawni Kenworthy-Heinige by email at tawni.kenworthy-heinige@va.gov. This posting will be open until a candidate has been selected.

**Title: Health Technician (GS-6 / GS-7)**
Expected starting salary: $38,022 (GS-6) / $46,793 (GS-7) + Benefits
FTE: 1.0

Position Summary
Under the supervision of the VA PI for the CART (Collaborative Aging Research Using Technology) initiative, a Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) project, the Technical Research Assistant serves the CART project which intends to advance the scientific understanding of common and important health care problems and conditions that affect Veterans. This research will create a nationwide home-based system for research that will determine how we can optimally enhance the health and wellbeing of all older adults. This position will require driving to Portland VA study participant homes, up to 250 miles away from Portland.

Responsibilities
The Research Assistant/Associate will perform a variety of research support tasks. Tasks will be commensurate with training and experience and may include:

- Unpack, setup, configure and install the CART in-home technology platforms for the home of CART study participants;
- Maintain equipment inventory for project, ensuring that new hardware is entered into the system when it arrives and that all equipment is properly signed out;
- Troubleshooting both software and hardware, including wireless setup and configuration;
- Monitoring the data quality from the CART homes;
- Data entry, database management, and in some cases, data analysis;
- Testing new equipment;
- Liaison with VA IT services to ensure research team has access to software/hardware;
- Completing additional administrative tasks in support of the CART project.

Experience
Qualifications:

- **Required:**
  - Bachelor’s degree in social, technical or biological science;
  - Strong organizational and computer skills;
  - Critical thinking skills and the ability to learn and integrate new information quickly;
  - Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively (both written and oral); to attend to numerous details and to multitask efficiently; to organize and maintain project records; and to work independently and collaboratively;
  - Ability to interact patiently and respectfully with elderly Veteran volunteers.

- **Preferred:**
  - Experience working with elderly populations or Veterans;
CLINICAL RESEARCH

- Computer programming experience;
- Technology support experience;
- Research experience, familiarity with research methods;
- Experience with command-line Linux;
- MySQL server experience.

Candidates must be US citizens. Depending on the candidate’s experience, the target salary will be in the GS-6 to GS-9 range according to the Office of Personnel Management General Schedule table at opm.gov.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume/CV to Nicole Sharma, by email at sharmani@ohsu.edu with the subject line ‘VA CART Technical Research Assistant’.
Title: Research Assistant/Associate (GS-6 / GS-7 / GS-9)
Expected starting salary: $38,022 (GS-6) / $46,793 (GS-7) / $51,683 (GS-9) + Benefits
FTE: 1.0

Position Summary
We have multiple Research Assistant/Associate positions open on several projects intended to advance the scientific understanding of common and important health care problems and conditions that affect Veterans. Current research topics include pain, suicide prevention, whole health, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Some study and center-related activities will involve working directly with Veterans to enhance Veteran engagement in care and Veteran engagement in research.

Responsibilities
The primary responsibility is to support the PIs (Drs. Denneson and Ono) in conducting multiple current and future Institutional Review Board-approved health services studies.

The Research Assistant/Associate will work as part of a team and perform a variety of research support tasks commensurate with training and experience and may include:
  o study coordination;
  o support Veteran engagement initiatives;
  o assist with grant preparation and other writing tasks;
  o assist with pre-award or post-award grants management;
  o subject recruitment and enrollment;
  o conduct qualitative interviews and analysis;
  o assist with manuscript development/writing;
  o survey construction and administration;
  o database management, data entry and organization;
  o basic data analysis and reporting;
  o IRB correspondence;
  o data audits, compliance, and detailed record keeping;
  o coordinate and/or assist with all necessary administrative-related tasks.

Qualifications:
- Required:
  o Bachelor's degree in social or biological science;
  o At least one year experience in human subjects research;
  o Strong organizational and computer skills;
  o Proficiency with database software such as Access, Excel, SPSS, and/or REDCap;
  o Rigorous attention to detail;
  o Strong conceptual and analytic skills;
Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively (both written and oral); to attend to numerous details and to multitask efficiently; to organize and maintain project records; and to work independently and collaboratively

- **Preferred:**
  - Pre- & Post-grant management experience;
  - Experience coordinating regulatory paperwork for human subjects research;
  - Experience with study recruitment and interviews with human subjects;
  - Prior experience coordinating/managing clinical trials;
  - Prior experience conducting qualitative interviews and analysis using Atlas.ti, NVivo or other qualitative software.

Candidates must be US citizens. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume/CV to Rachel Matsumoto, by email at rachel.matsumoto@va.gov with the subject line ‘Research Health Science Specialist’.
Title: Health Science Specialist
Expected starting salary: $52,745 + Benefits
FTE: 1.0

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
The primary responsibility is to support the PI (Dr. Denise Hynes) in conducting multiple current and future Institutional Review Board-approved health services studies funded by VA HSR&D and other federal funding agencies. This includes study coordination; database management, data entry and organization; and completing IRB correspondence.

JOB DUTIES
• Support Program Manager and PI by performing a range of research-related tasks including:
  • study coordination;
  • subject recruitment, informed consent, and interviews;
  • survey construction and administration;
  • database management, data entry and organization;
  • basic data analysis and reporting;
  • IRB correspondence;
  • data audits, compliance, and detailed record keeping.
  • Assist with writing of reports, presentations, grants and manuscripts, which may include gathering background data, literature review, writing, editing, and coordinating submissions.
• Coordinate and/or assist with all necessary administrative-related tasks.

QUALIFICATIONS
• Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in a related field, and 2+ years of direct human subjects research experience
• Experience working on multiple prior research studies as a research assistant or similar position;
• Sound judgment and ability to implement good clinical research practices and human subjects regulatory procedures;
• Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively;
• Rigorous attention to detail and record keeping;
• Proficiency with database software such as SPSS, Excel, and REDCap;
• Ability to multitask and prioritize projects; and
• Strong conceptual and analytic skills, professional oral and written communication skills, and ability to work independently.

Preference given to candidates demonstrating experience working in health services research, having knowledge of VA policies, procedures, data sources, and care delivery
settings, and/or experience conducting qualitative interviews and analyzing qualitative data.

Candidates must be US citizens. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume/CV to Dr. Hynes by email at denise.hynes@va.gov with the subject line ‘Research Associate’. 
Title: Research Health Science Specialist  
Clinical Research Study Coordinator
Expected Salary: $65,017 year + Benefits  
FTE: 1.0

Position Summary
This is a Clinical Reposition is located in the Research and Development Service of the Veterans Administration Portland Health Care Systems (VAPORHCS) in Portland, Oregon. The incumbent will support Local Site Investigators (LSIs) in the coordination of one or more VA Cooperative Studies Programs (CSP) randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial and/or interventional clinical trial involving experimental and observational research in healthcare. The incumbent will primarily be working with a diversified population of United States Veterans, as well as the potential of working within the community and with other collaborating research institutions in the Portland, Oregon/SW Washington region, including the VAPORHCS Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) within the Portland, Oregon Metro area.

This position will entail extensive patient contact and coordinating, managing and executing multiple elements of human subjects’ research to provide necessary support to CSP research with primary emphasis on enrollment, regulatory compliance, data quality, and other approved enhancements of research efforts. Successful candidates must be comfortable stepping in as a CSP support study staff facilitator on short notice; flexibility, time management and a team-based aptitude are key.

Job Requirements
- Bachelors degree or higher; preferably in a scientific or social science discipline (e.g., public health, biology, psychology/psychiatry/mental health, sociology, hematology/oncology, cardiology, endocrinology, endoscopy, gastroenterology, geriatrics, nephrology, pulmonology, rheumatology, or other similar field).
- Previous experience with human subjects research, including but not limited to knowledge of Good Clinical Practices (GCP), patient screening and informed consent, baseline, pre, post and follow-up interviewing, IRB, regulatory documentation
- Experience in the principles of health sciences research, including policies and guidelines involved with human subjects’ studies including accreditation agencies, FDA, DHHA and PHS policies, regulations and guidelines.
- Experience working with clinicians, engineers, scientists, specialists, pre- and postdoctoral student trainees and technicians and other other staff affiliates in associated with clinical trial research.
- Work independently and as part of a team
- Take initiative to take on new and varied tasks associated with implementation of novel research
- Proficient in MS Applications, including Word, MS Excel, MS Outlook, and a working knowledge of MS Access, MS PowerPoint, and MS Publisher.
Experience with VA CPRS, VISTA, and other VA databases, and statistical programs a plus
- Quickly learn new computer skills specific to the project.
- Communicate effectively and empathetically with patients and staff from diverse backgrounds
- Extreme detail orientation, organization and ability to maintain written procedures
- Ability to work under pressure and with time constraints.
- Accurately transcribe and input written and recorded data into a database
- Excellent customer service and patient centered focus.
- Preferred experience in:
  a) minimum 3 years Human Subjects healthcare/clinical trials and research investigatory processes;
  b) study interviewing, including psychological and surgical survey administration;
  c) compilation of data and development;
  d) interview assessments, including psychological and surgical survey administration;
  e) standard clinical procedures and clinical care;
  f) carrying out routine clinical tasks, including collection of biological specimens
     (e.g. blood/phlebotomy; urine) and administering routine clinical tests (e.g.,
     weighing participants, vital signs, EKG);
  g) multi-project support administration;
  h) pharmaceutical, genomic, surgical/procedural, mental health and/or standard-
     of-care research programs, including randomized, double-blind, placebo-
     controlled clinical trial and/or interventional clinical trials;
  i) valid driver’s license, as this position may require driving to Community Based Outpatient Clinics
     (CBOCs) within VA PORHCS region.

Detailed Description
- Manage administrative requirements involving the Central and local VA IRBs. Maintain organized, accurate and IRB compliant study records.
- Coordinate and schedule multiple subject visits including following VA policies for processing patient reimbursements (when appropriate).
- Recruit patients in the VA community, including initial screening and engaging with the Veteran population.
- Review medical records and analyzes the patient population for research and recruitment purposes (inclusion/exclusion criteria),
- Conduct informed consent and administer surveys to study subjects, including baseline and follow-up, which may include in-person, teleconferencing and telephone communication.
- Assess the operational status of test equipment to ensure tests are conducted within appropriate limits.
- Execute safe, optimal testing; maintain research or laboratory environment in terms of equipment, supplies, calibration, and safety.
- Administer test procedures, which may include collecting, securing, processing, and shipping of blood/specimen samples; performing routine clinical tests.
- Develop and maintain electronic databases; assist and promote equipment interfacing and data compatibility within the research program.
- Provide timely assistance to the Local Site Investigator (LSI), the local CSP and other team members.
• Promote optimal utilization of the efforts of the staff and systems integration for optimal utilization throughout the research program(s) in support of CSP.
• Effectively coordinate multiple administrative tasks.
• Participate in regularly scheduled multi-site investigator and/or facilitator conference calls; Attend regular clinical and research team meetings.
• Maintaining local site documentation and records, adhering all regulatory requirements.
• Respond to general inquiries from study participants and family members, research and clinical staff and other study personnel; assisting with training personnel, including the consideration of the relative needs for services within the research program(s).
• Assist in coordinating the work for the research team, including multidisciplinary teams of clinicians, technicians, and students in research activities of the assigned CSP.
• Respond to other research-related tasks as assigned.

Physical Demands

• The work is mainly sedentary with some walking, lifting, pushing and standing. Because the research may involve disabled and/or hospitalized patients, this position occasionally requires the ability to assist patients, if needed, during interactions (e.g., with transfers) and/or interventions.

Work Environment

• The environment involves everyday risks or discomforts that require normal safety precautions typical of such places as offices, meeting and training rooms, libraries, residences, or commercial vehicles, e.g., use of safe work practices with office equipment, avoidance of trips and falls, observance of fire regulations and traffic signals.
• The work area is adequately lighted, heated, and ventilated. Instructing subjects during research appointments may require demonstration of equipment or interventions. Some work is performed in the presence of study participants most often considered not to have a communicable disease but this possibility can exist.

Interested candidates should send a resume/CV to Tawni Kenworthy-Heinige by email at tawni.kenworthy-heinige@va.gov. This posting will be open until a candidate has been selected.