CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE

The University of Florida Clinical and Translational Science Institute seeks to transform the university's ability to conduct clinical and translational research so that people more quickly benefit from scientific discoveries. Established in 2009, the institute is funded by a five-year $26 million Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health and by additional commitments totaling $93 million from the UF College of Medicine and the Office of Research. UF is part of a prestigious national consortium of medical research institutions that have received the NIH awards, whose membership will be capped at 60 by 2012.

The CTSI seeks to improve the university’s ability to make discoveries, publish results and translate those results into improved care and health. The effort involves the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and its extension offices in Florida’s 67 counties, the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Florida State University, Shands HealthCare and other partners throughout the state. All of UF’s 16 colleges participate in the CTSI.

The Clinical and Translational Research Building will provide a state-of-the-art space where the CTSI and its partners can collaborate to move scientific discoveries from the lab to the clinic, and from the clinic into community, public health and policy arenas. With the CTSI headquartered in the north wing, the new building will house the institute’s Clinical Research Center, Regulatory Knowledge and Research Support Program, Training and Professional Development Program, and executive and administrative staff.

There are three main components to the CTSI's mission: research, education and community.

ACCELERATE RESEARCH
Today, the CTSI provides more than 40 distinct services to streamline and accelerate the research process for translational investigators by addressing clinical, laboratory, consulting, training and other needs. The institute is simultaneously advancing large-scale projects that will create new services and opportunities for translational research at UF and throughout the state. One of the CTSI’s flagship services is the UF Clinical Research Center, a multi- and interdisciplinary clinical and translational research unit with a long and esteemed history in supporting the application of new knowledge and techniques at the front lines of patient care. CTSI-supported research activities reflect a broad range of expertise in aging, cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes, dental, gastrointestinal/ hepatobiliary, neuromedicine, muscular dystrophy, pain and rare diseases.

EDUCATE THE RESEARCH WORKFORCE
The CTSI educates and trains researchers, laboratory technicians, study coordinators and other staff required to conduct translational research. Through robust professional development offerings that include degree and certificate programs, the CTSI aims to make a significant contribution to the development of a national workforce of highly skilled clinical and translational research personnel.

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY
To engage Florida's citizens in its mission to improve human health, the CTSI is continuously working to expand its partnerships with clinical, research and community-based entities throughout the state. A community-based advisory board informs the CTSI’s work in this area. People in multiple cities soon will be able to participate in UF research across the full spectrum of biomedical science, from genetics to cancer, from emergency medicine to public health concerns.