

Nursing Research Opportunities in the USPHS

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Objectives

- Describe the various roles for nursing in clinical research
- Describe the progression from clinical research nursing to Clinical Nurse Researcher
- Describe the specific responsibilities, training and goal setting for each role

NIH Clinical Center: America's Research Hospital

- Supports intramural clinical research conducted by the Institutes and Centers of the NIH
- Creates and disseminates standards and innovations for conducting clinical research
- Creates and demonstrates models for clinical research training and career development for all disciplines



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Unique Capabilities of the NIH Clinical Center



- 234 bed research hospital and clinics
- Staff and infrastructure dedicated to clinical research
- Close proximity of multiple disciplines
- “Bench-to-Bedside” link

Definition of Clinical Research Nursing

Clinical research nursing is nursing practice with a specialty focus on the care of research participants.

1. Providing and coordinating clinical care
2. Assuring participant safety
3. Ongoing maintenance of informed consent
4. Integrity of protocol implementation
5. Accuracy of data collection and recording

Care received by research participants is driven by study requirements and the collection of research data as well as clinical indications.

Specialty Definition Steps

- Define practice domain
- Establish practice standards
- Determine core competencies
- Develop tools to assist clinicians, managers and educators (core curriculum, staffing standards, core courses, etc.)
- Develop certification process

Source: Clare Hastings, RN, PhD, FAAN, used with permission



Source: Castro, K., Bevans, M., Miller-Davis, C., Cusack, G., Loscalzo, F., Matlock, A.M., Mayberry, H., Tondreau, L., Walsh, D. & Hastings, C. In press. Validating the clinical research nursing domain of practice, *Oncology Nursing Forum*. Used with permission.

Our Practice Domain Taxonomy

Domain

Specialty Practice Area



Dimension

Distinctive Categories within the Domain



Activities

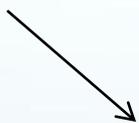
Specific Job Descriptors within each Dimension

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Nursing Career Path in Research at the NIH Clinical Center



**Entry into
Practice**



**Clinical Research Nurse
Research Nurse
Coordinator**

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Clinical Research Nurse

Supporting Clinical Research

- **Responsibilities:**

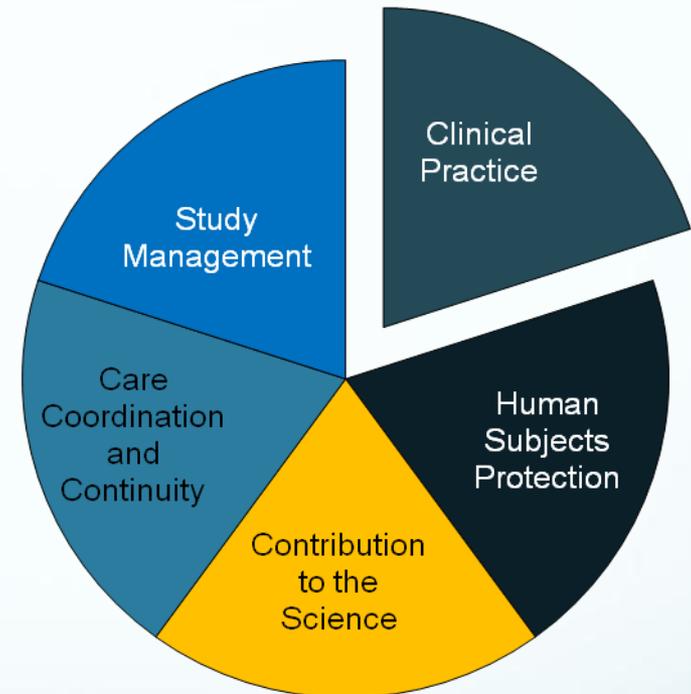
- Expert clinical care of research participants
- Maintain informed consent
- Clinical curiosity and skill in evidence-based practice

- **Training and Mentoring Needs:**

- Specialty training culminating in certification (oncology, neurology, pediatrics)
- Good clinical practices (GCP) for data collection
- Career guidance about selecting graduate education track (practice vs. education vs. administration)

- **Progressive Goal Setting:**

- Leadership development:
 - Within the organization
 - Professional associations
- Leadership development through participation in professional organizations
- Technology skills (searching reference databases, Power Point, Word)
- Explore graduate education



Source: Sandra Mitchell; used with permission

Research Nurse Coordinator

Ensuring Protocol Integrity and Coordinated Care

- **Responsibilities:**

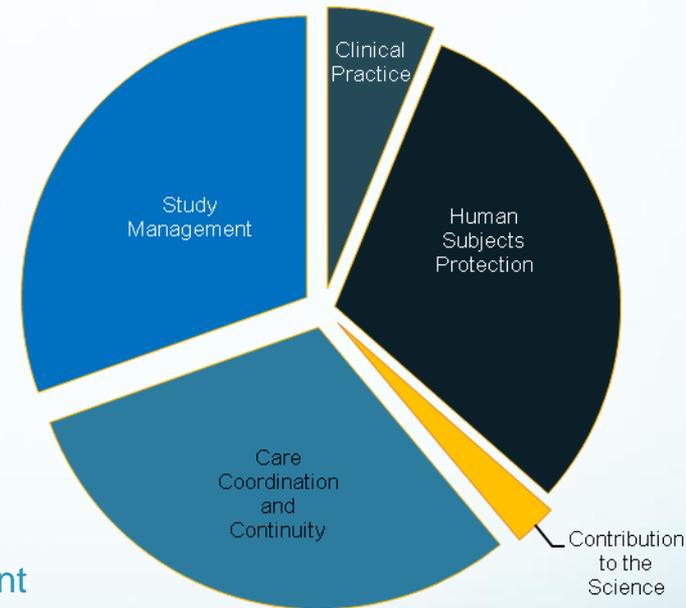
- Assist with protocol development, regulatory documents, and adverse events reporting
- Recruit, enroll and ensure informed consent for study participants
- Coordinate interdisciplinary research-related care procedures for patients on study

- **Training and Mentoring Needs:**

- Regulatory aspects of protocol execution
- Technology skills (database development, bibliographic management software)
- Leadership development within an interdisciplinary environment

- **Progressive Goal Setting:**

- Development and dissemination of care standards for patients receiving investigational agents
- Explore graduate education



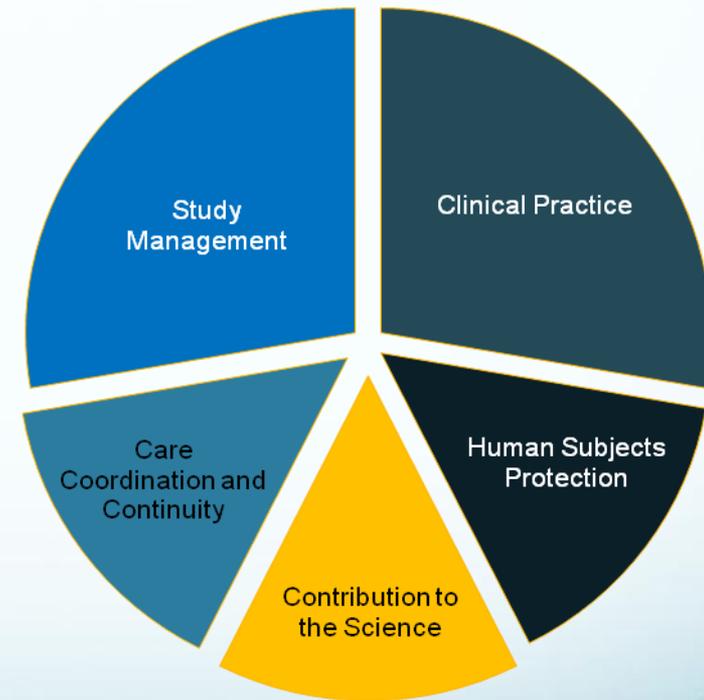
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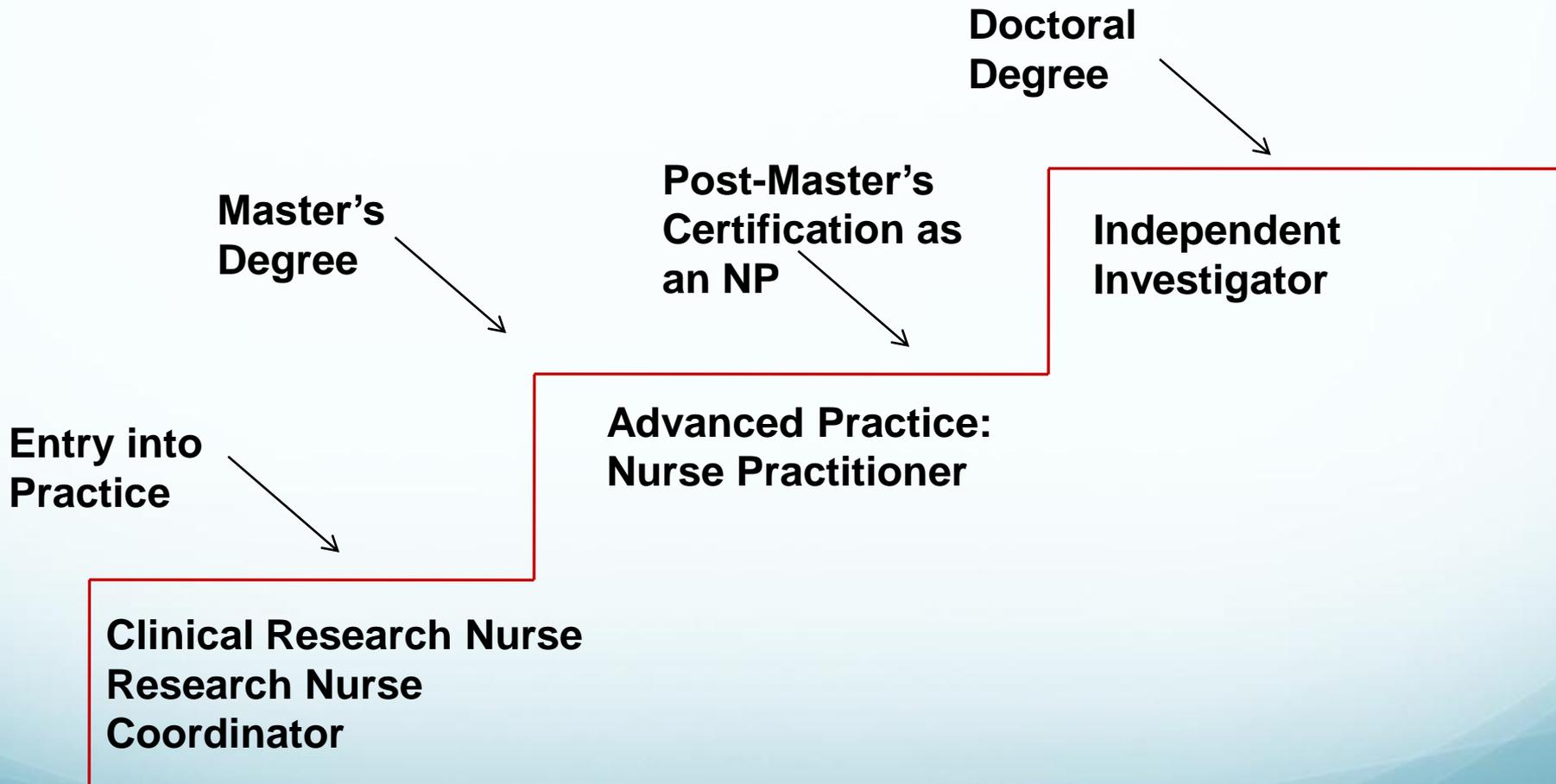
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Advanced Practice: Nurse Practitioner *Broadening Skill Set For Clinical Research*

- **Responsibilities:**
 - Manage caseload of study participants, including eligibility evaluation, ordering investigational therapies, monitoring, grading, and managing toxicities, and evaluating primary and secondary endpoints
 - Collaborate in protocol development; scientific and IRB review
- **Training and Mentoring Needs:**
 - Advanced decision-making for patients on research protocols
 - Documentation and practice management (eg. billing)
 - Organization and time management skills
 - Leadership of an interdisciplinary team
- **Progressive Goal Setting**
 - Contribute to dissemination of study findings through secondary analyses (eg. case reports)
 - Leadership development within professional organizations at a national level



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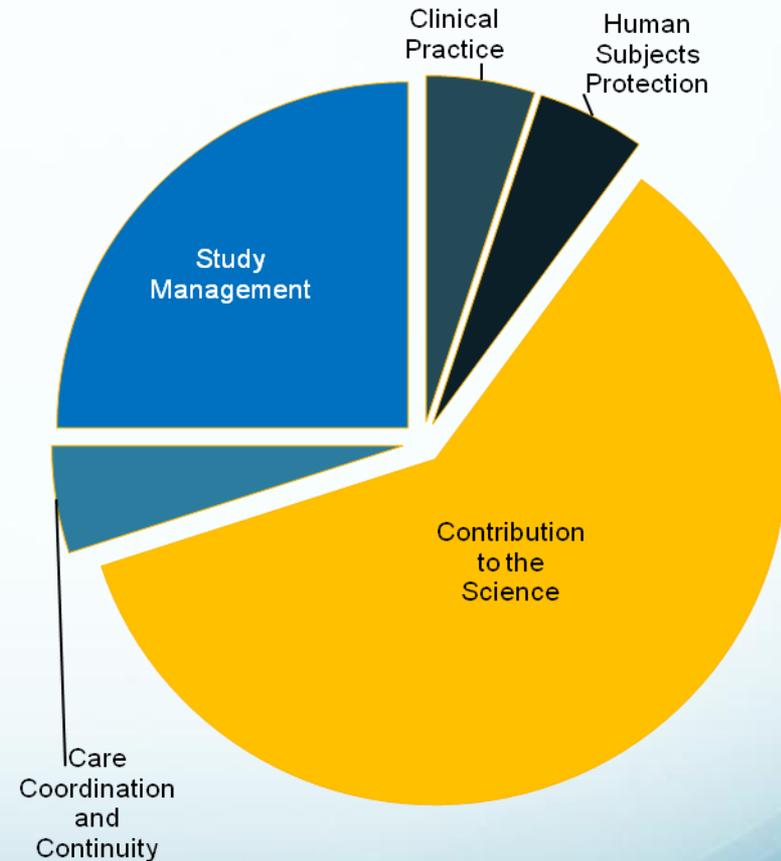


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Nurse Scientist

Building the Science as a Principal Investigator

- **Skill Set:**
 - Develop protocols as an independent investigator
 - Lead a research team that may include clinical research nurse, data manager, statistician, research assistant
 - Supervise subject screening, enrollment, and all study-related procedures
- **Training and Mentoring Needs:**
 - Organizational, supervisory, budgetary, priority setting and time management skills
 - Scientific writing
 - Leadership of an interdisciplinary scientific team; leadership within a scientific branch or department
- **Progressive Goal Setting:**
 - Manage the continuous protocol life cycle, balancing projects at various stages of development and dissemination
 - Mentor post-docs, graduate students, and team members in their career development



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Thank you

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