

Under the Microscope

Clinical Trials Business Unit opens

Royal Perth Hospital has recently established a Clinical Trials Business Unit (CTBU) to develop its position as one of the leading clinical research hospitals in Australia.

The CTBU, a branch of the Research Administration Centre (RAC), is responsible for medical research governance.

Its roles are to coordinate the legal, financial and ethical components of clinical trial applications; to market the Hospital as a leading research centre; and to facilitate the accreditation of personnel in Good Clinical Practice (GCP) to meet international standards.

RPH Director of Research Peter Leedman said the key objectives of the CTBU were to ensure a standard of excellence in the governance of clinical research, and the promotion of future research and clinical trials at Royal Perth Hospital. CTBU will also be responsible for providing modules of GCP for clinical trial investigators across the campus.

In addition, a biostatistician is soon to be appointed, providing a much-needed resource for many clinical investigators.

Prof Leedman said: "The CTBU will be available to negotiate legal and financial issues with research personnel and sponsors, while the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) will continue to review the ethical principles of each individual research proposal."

Prof Leedman said that RPH has at any one time well over a hundred ongoing clinical trials.

"The CTBU provides RPH with a clear research governance pathway that will enhance its national and international competitiveness," he said.

He said Katherine Coltrona had been appointed Business Development Manager of the CTBU and that she was looking forward to receiving documentation on all of the new clinical trials that come to RPH.