UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute (ACTRI) accelerates the delivery of new and more effective treatments from the laboratory to the patient’s bedside.

Our mission is to provide research resources, training, and collaboration opportunities for ACTRI scientists, health care providers, and the community.
Translating Scientific Discoveries
Into Better Health

“Our vision is to speed the delivery of treatment and cures to patients.”
— Gary S. Firestein, MD, ACTRI Director

Translational Medicine
Translation is the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public — from methods of diagnosing disease to new treatments, medical procedures and behavioral changes.

From Idea to Innovation
ACTRI was established in 2010 to energize efforts to translate basic science discoveries into new treatments for patients. It encompasses several areas:

The Center for Clinical Research supports about 200 clinical trials each year, testing new therapies to treat a wide range of diseases. This center is a fully staffed, 18,000-square-foot research clinic with state-of-the-art equipment and includes an infusion center, pharmacy, phase 1 clinical trial unit, and more than 20 rooms for clinical trial participant visits.

Community Engagement helps the community better understand clinical research and how they can play a role in translating basic science into improved health by participating in clinical studies and helping researchers identify health concerns.

Education helps develop the next generation of translational researchers, providing funding, training, seminars and mentorship to working scientists and students in the UC San Diego School of Medicine and our partner institutions.

Biomedical Informatics helps researchers keep groundbreaking research on track in the age of big data by assisting them in interpreting data, giving them the tools to manage clinical trials and query clinical records, and keeping participant information secure.

ACTRI Laboratories include a biomarker laboratory and biorepository services. Biomarkers are biological indicators that signal a changed physiological state due to disease or a therapeutic intervention. Working with clinical trial teams, the biomarker lab helps evaluate the effect of new drugs on blood and tissue parameters to enable early “go/no-go” decisions in drug development. The biorepository collects and stores biological specimens such as blood, cells, and tissue.

Translational Research Alliance develops and facilitates new pathways for clinical researchers to partner with basic science researchers outside UC San Diego, provides new tools for basic scientists across the San Diego region to translate discoveries into new treatments, and supports engineer and medicine collaborations.

Services
ACTRI provides assistance with proposal development, study design, regulatory issues and submissions, biostatistics and informatics, and offers ethics consultation, community engagement consultation, clinical trial coordination, genomics technologies, biorepository services, and training for medical students and early-career investigators.