



## ADVANCING HEALTHCARE

*Explore Over 150 Clinical Trials*

Colleagues,

As we approach the final weeks of summer, I hope many of you are enjoying well-deserved PTO with family and friends. For others, this season may involve preparing for the new school year and shopping for back-to-school essentials.

The Research and Development team would like to extend a warm welcome to our new residents, fellows, and future physicians beginning their journey at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. We look forward to collaborating with you as you pursue your research endeavors in the years ahead.

To support this growing research community, we have made several strategic hires in recent months. Our grant administration team has expanded to better serve both pre-award and post-award activities. You can learn more about our new team members in this newsletter.

These changes, along with other upcoming improvements, are part of the efforts led by our newly established Research Governance Executive Council. This council includes stakeholders from across the organization and is focused on building a more robust and integrated research enterprise. Carilion Clinic is working in close partnership with Virginia Tech to ensure seamless and effective collaboration moving forward.

As you read this issue, we encourage you to get to know our new staff, review the TriNetX training schedule, and explore an exciting project that brings together our Emergency Department and local law enforcement to benefit the community.

In the meantime, stay cool and don't forget the sunscreen.



## **EM Research Embodying Community and Collaboration**

As a member of the U.S. Army, Dr. Davin Combs developed a passion for working with emergency medical service providers such as fire rescue teams and law enforcement officers. His military service in security roles allowed him the opportunity to work closely with these groups, and at times, to develop and provide training. Fast-forward to today where he brought his experiences and ideas with him to his residency training in emergency medicine here at Carilion Clinic.

Dr. Combs spent a significant amount of time during the first two years of his emergency medicine residency working with his faculty mentor...

[Read more](#)

---

## **New R&D Employee's**

### **Anna Derrick, Clinical Research Coordinator, Gynecologic Oncology**

We are excited to welcome Anna Derrick, MPH, to the Gynecologic Oncology research team as a Clinical Research Coordinator. Anna joined us in June 2025 and brings a well-rounded background in public health, research, and leadership. She recently completed her Master of Public Health at the University of Virginia, where her thesis focused on enrollment demographics in COVID-19 vaccine trials. She also holds a B.S. in Biology from Roanoke College. Prior to joining Carilion, Anna completed an internship at the National Partnership for Women and Families and served as a Quality Assurance Laboratory Technician at New Belgium Brewing. Anna's blend of research, clinical, and leadership experience, paired with her technical skills in healthcare software, make her a valuable addition to our team. We're thrilled to have her on board and look forward to the impact she will make in our oncology research efforts!

### **Ching-Tzu Tseng, MS, PhD, Grant Management Administrator, Post-award**

Ching-Tzu Tseng has joined the Grant Management Team as a new Grant Management Administrator. Previously, Ching served as a Research Administrator at the Texas Tech University Office of Research Services, managing diverse grant portfolios from federal, state, and private funding agencies. Ching also brings extensive experience with NIH grant applications, having worked as a biomedical science researcher and grant writer. Ching is a devoted animal lover, especially fond of dogs, and has rescued more than 20 kittens. Her two newest family members are her very first “foster fails,” but she doesn’t mind one bit. In her spare time, she enjoys weight training, watching movies, and spending time with her family.

**Matthew Hancock, MA, Grant Management Administrator, Post-award**

Matthew Hancock has joined the Grant Management Team as a new post-award grant management administrator. He previously served as a program manager in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where he managed the undergraduate program budget and provided financial and administrative support to deans, faculty, students, and staff. Before that, Matthew served three and a half years living in Lesotho and Zambia with the Peace Corps, teaching English and HIV education, and managing grants to organize and lead HIV education workshops. He brings a strong background of international development, budget management, and disability case management, having also worked with the Social Security Administration as an SSI Claims Representative. Outside of work, Matthew enjoys traveling, experiencing new cultures, playing guitar, and watching sports, especially the Washington Commanders and UVA basketball. He also loves spending time with his wife and planning international trips together. Most of all, Matthew is passionate about serving others and is excited to be part of the R&D team at Carilion.

**Adam Cordell, Clinical Research Coordinator II, R&D**

Adam graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in the Fall of 2024 with a B.S in Health Sciences from the department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences. During his time at VCU, he was involved with the University of Richmond flu clinic, Virginia Cancer Institute, and an internship with the student health service at VCU, RecWell. He is incredibly passionate about the medical field and research. In his personal life, he has recently moved to Roanoke from Richmond as his partner was accepted into Radford University’s physician assistant program and will be at Carilion as well. In his free time, he enjoys reading, hanging out with his 4 cats, and playing viola or singing with a choir.

**Melissa Mercure, PhD, Grants Management Administrator, Pre-award**

Melissa Mercure recently transitioned from her role as a Contract Analyst in R&D—where she supported research collaborations and helped manage internal funding programs—to the Grants Management team. She began in a post-award role in January and now supports pre-award efforts. This progression has allowed her to work across the research lifecycle and deepen her understanding of research administration. With a background in biomedical science and experience in medical education, Melissa is excited to continue supporting Carilion’s growing research enterprise. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking with her dogs and spending time with her two teenage children.

**Nicole Arbogast, BA, Contract Administrator, R&D**

Nicole Arbogast has joined the R&D team as a Contract Administrator. She previously served as the Director of Philanthropy and Engagement Services at Emory & Henry University, where she managed gift entry, receipting, financial/campaign reporting, and database queries. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys spending time with her family, listening to podcasts, and doing yoga.

# Carilion Clinic TriNetX Virtual Training Schedule

Carilion offers instructor-led, focused training for an in-depth, step-by-step learning experience building patient cohorts and delving into Analytics. The facilitator will be Dee Myers. Please get in touch with [HART@carilionclinic.org](mailto:HART@carilionclinic.org) with the subject of 'TriNetX Training' for training outside of the scheduled sessions. If you haven't taken a class or need a refresher, this is your opportunity to do so! Let Dee Myers know which date you prefer and she will send a meeting invitation.

- Aug 7, 10:30am – noon
- Aug 20, 1:30 – 3pm

<https://redcap.link/v5pw9j7j> to sign up for TriNetX digitally.

For more information

visit: <https://redcapweb.carilionclinic.org/redcap/surveys/?s=dcUClpMAzk8BqKH2>

---

## My Project Path:

### Resources and Processes for Research, Grants, and QA/QI

**Want to do a project, but don't know where to start? Or, experienced but want to see what new resources are available?**

To learn about **Carilion's resources and processes for Research, Grants and QA/QI**, visit <https://redcap.link/MyProjectPath>. This tool provides easy navigation to topics of interest, including links to the Research and Development Application and the IRB PRIS3M application.

---



## iTHRIV Learning Shorts

iTHRIV periodically creates short educational videos, named "Learning Shorts". Learning Shorts are brief, digestible online educational offerings organized around a specific topic. iTHRIV hopes that these videos

will help educate, dispel misinformation, and create a basis for conversation between the community and health researchers. To learn more visit: <https://www.ithriv.org/short-educational-videos>

# iTHRIV Updates:

Upcoming Workshops and general information: <https://portal.ithriv.org/#/home>

[Newsletter link](#)

---

\* Carilion Clinic Research and Development is honored to partner with a growing list of prestigious national and statewide research centers and healthcare organizations. Find out more about our collaborative research initiatives; [explore our unique public-private partnerships](#) with the Virginia Tech Carilion (VTC) School of Medicine, Virginia Tech, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Radford University Carilion, and others. Connect with our team to discuss opportunities to [collaborate with our experts](#) or [become a participant](#).

URL : <https://www.carilionclinic.org/news/research-may-2025-newsletter/>



## Connect with us

[Research and Development](#)

[Human Research Protections Office](#)

[CITI](#)

[Health Analytics Research Team](#)

[TriNetX](#)

[iTHRIV](#)

[PRIS3M Online IRB Submission System](#)

[Carilion Clinic Innovation](#)

---

[Unsubscribe](#)