The Veterinary Clinical Investigations Center (VCIC) is a center within the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, with the primary focus of implementing high quality clinical trials for client-owned companion animals. The Director of the VCIC, Dr. Dorothy Cimino Brown, is a board-certified small animal surgeon with a Masters degree in Clinical Epidemiology-Clinical Trials from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. The VCIC is staffed with full-time nurses certified in Good Clinical Practice, whose effort is entirely devoted to all aspects of clinical trial implementation, including study set-up, recruitment, data collection, data management, and study close-out. The VCIC works collaboratively with the Investigational Drug Service (IDS) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania — a research-only pharmacy that provides 21CFR11 inventory monitoring, compounding, and dispensing of investigational compounds. The VCIC is involved in the coordination and implementation of industry, foundation and government-funded studies, including FDA and USDA regulated studies. All studies are conducted to the level of GCP / VICH GL9 regardless of whether or not data will be submitted to a regulatory agency. The VCIC also utilizes the Velos eResearch clinical research information system, an FDA-approved database management system providing 21CFR11 and HL7 compliance.

A successful companion animal trial begins with the ability to recruit the number of animals necessary to deliver meaningful results. The VCIC has a very successful recruitment program, which utilizes print, Internet and radio advertising, as well as listserv and flyer recruitment through our network of over 3,000 referring veterinary practices. When a given trial requires more animals with a specific condition than would normally be presented in the 34,000 animals that come to Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania annually, the VCIC has a proven record for targeted recruitment of animals at over 400% above baseline presentation rate. The VCIC documents which recruitment modalities are most effective for a given target population and can guide sponsors on the most efficient means to enroll the desired number of animals in a specified period of time for a given study.

The VCIC has been active in the successful completion of both single and multi-center trials targeting acute and chronic pain, oncology, cardiology, infectious disease, dermatology, neurology, endocrinology, obesity, sepsis, and trauma just to name a few. The VCIC will match an investigator from the faculty and staff at PennVet with the expertise needed for a given sponsored study and then facilitate the efficient start-up, high quality data collection, and successful completion of that study. If you would like more information about the Veterinary Clinical Investigations Center please contact Michael DiGregorio, Associate Director, at 215-573-3885 or mdigreg@vet.upenn.edu.