What is MACRO?

MACRO (Multidisciplinary Acute Care Research Organization)
MACRO is a joint clinical trials enterprise led by the Departments of CCM, Surgery, and EM, and coordinates over 23 studies by 78 investigators in 13 Departments.

MACRO’s overall mission is to facilitate clinical research led by dedicated investigators in an ethical, fiscally sound, and regulatory compliant manner. Dr. David Huang succeeds Dr. Scott Gunn, whose leadership over the past five years has helped MACRO flourish and grow in response to increasing investigator needs. MACRO will continue to naturally build on its past accomplishments, streamline operations, and contribute to fostering a "culture of research" within daily clinical and educational activities.

Why Do I Need to Know About MACRO?
Awareness of clinical trials in your workplace is critical to successful research and improving patient care. MACRO Coordinators will be providing in-service opportunities in your unit to review research trials in which your patients may be involved.

Current Studies

- **Sapphire**—A Study of biomarkers for detection of Acute Kidney Injury
  PI – Ali Al-Khafaji

- **INR Reversal** – A study of an investigational product ‘Octaplex' for the reversal of INR in patients on Coumadin
  PI – Lou Alarcon

- **SNAP** – A study of best feeding practices in Acute Pancreatitis
  PI – Stephen O’Keefe

- **GSK** – An interventional study to assess activity, efficacy, and safety of an anti-inflammatory compound to prevent ARDS in trauma patients
  PI – Scott Gunn

- **Sepsis Studies** – Observational and interventional studies with suspected or proven sources of infection
  PI – David Huang, Peter Simon, Kai Singbartl, Nina Singh

- **Trauma studies** – Observational studies comparing genetic markers, hormones, and cytokine measures in trauma patients
  PI – Jason Sperry

- **Chest Pain** – Compares rapid rule-out strategy (ED Coronary angiogram) to traditional care in low risk patients with potential ACS
  PI – Charissa Pacella
Meet some of the MACRO Research Assistants (RAs)

MACRO utilizes a group of exceptionally bright PITT undergraduate students to be a 24/7 presence in the hospital. These select students are available for prompt response anywhere in the hospital. Functions of our RAs include:

- screening for potential subjects
- data collection
- scheduled sample collections
- processing samples
- conducting the informed consent process with family members and patients for minimal risk studies

Employing student RAs has been a win-win formula for both the students and MACRO. Many of these students have aspirations to continue in the medical field and are getting valuable exposure to clinical and research situations. The constant presence of the RAs has enabled MACRO to conduct research requiring significant after hours attention.

Spotlight on a High Enrolling Nursing Unit: TICU

Did you know the University of Pittsburgh is the top enroller in the multi-site study Sapphire?

The Sapphire study is examining novel biomarkers that detect early acute kidney injury (AKI) in our critically ill patients. Dr. Ali Al-Khafaji is the UPMC principal investigator of this study that may very well change our standard method of detecting AKI in the near future. Although subjects for this study have been recruited and enrolled in all of our ICUs, TICU has led the way by enrolling well over 50% of the more than 40 UPMC consented subjects to date. Thank you for the referrals and an extra applause to the TICU staff for being the star of Sapphire.