



## WMU medical school forms clinical research center

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**KALAMAZOO, MI** — The **Western Michigan University medical school** announced it has formed a clinical research center effective Wednesday, July 1.

The Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine's Center for Clinical Research will strengthen support for clinical research at Borgess Research Institute and Bronson Research Services, and will offer new research opportunities, the school said in a press release.

The Center for Clinical Research will provide comprehensive services for investigators including proposal development, sponsored programs administration, and a human research protection program. It will provide several study oversight services including protocol management, regulatory document preparation and submission, budget development, subject recruitment and enrollment, staff training and other services.

Amy Shipley  
Courtesy photo

The new center is expected to streamline operations, eliminate duplication of services and boost research compliance oversight.

Amy Shipley, PhD, chief research officer at Borgess Research Institute, will serve as the medical school's assistant dean for research compliance. Thomas Blok, MD, director of research services at Bronson, will serve as the medical school's assistant dean for clinical research.

"Bringing together these two leaders with experience in all aspects of clinical research creates a synergy that builds on the longstanding research and innovation at both hospitals," Dr. Hal B. Jenson, dean of the medical school, said. "Both have well-established clinical research relationships with sponsors across multiple therapeutic areas and support a large number of active clinical trials overseen by experienced investigators throughout Kalamazoo."

Tom Blok  
Courtesy photo

The center will be housed on the fourth and fifth floors of the downtown Kalamazoo medical school, along with biomedical science research laboratories. Center faculty and staff are expected to move into offices by late 2015.

"The new Center, with its combined number of trials, puts researchers in a stronger position to pursue grant opportunities," J. Patrick Dyson, executive vice president at Borgess Health, said.

Borgess and Bronson's programs and services are expected to grow with the new center, including clinical trials in

the areas of drugs, device, cardiology, vascular and other diseases.

Patients currently enrolled in clinical trials through Borgess and Bronson will continue to be seen at their current sites.

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