

Vicki McHugh, MS-CRM

Director of Research Operations | Gundersen Medical Foundation



Vicki McHugh, MS-CRM has worked at Gundersen Health System for 28 years, with eighteen being in the Medical Research department. In her current role as the Administrative Director of the Medical Research Department of Gundersen Medical Foundation, her AOR includes Academic Research (investigator-initiated research), Clinical Research, Hematology/Oncology Research (including industry and cooperative group trials), Nursing Research, and three basic science laboratories (Rheumatology/Immunology, Microbiology, and the Kabara Cancer Research Institute). She interacts with internal stakeholders from support staff to Senior Executive Leadership within Gundersen Health System on a daily basis to ensure the strategic and operational management, development, delivery and quality of all investigator-initiated, clinical research and bench research within Gundersen Healthy System. Her experiences encompass administrative leadership and oversight of multiple strategic projects, project development from conception to completion, annual and rolling budget forecasting and fiscal management of donor allocated funding, personnel management, as well as work closely with, Compliance, Quality and Safety, and the local Institutional Review Board.

A few examples of her accomplishments within the Medical Research Department over the past eighteen years include restructuring the Clinical Research Department staffing model which increased revenue by 120% and study visit volumes by 185% since 2012, developing a new targeting and forecasting process for her AOR which has resulted in exceeding revenue forecasting and been under target for expenses since 2015, restructuring the Medical Research Department with the addition of the Administrative Director position and rebuilding of Oncology Research Laboratory personnel, successful growth and new construction of the Medical Research Laboratory footprint at the Health Science Consortium building on University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus on time and under budget in 2015, with an additional expansion project completed in 2019.