

Partnering with the MUSC Regional Health Network to Deploy Research: Infrastructure, Examples, and Q&A

Royce Sampson, MSN, RN, CRA

Julia Brenner, MHA

Kristen Clasen DeHart, MEd

Stephanie Gentilin, MA, CCRP

Jennifer Dahne, PhD



Welcome!

Goals for today:

- 1. Learn about MUSC's infrastructure and support services for developing, deploying, and sustaining research partnerships across MUSC Regional Health Network sites (e.g., key contacts, regulatory/contracting pathways, operational support).**
 - › Big picture background and current structure (Royce, ~10 minutes)
 - › How to engage RHN sites (Julia and Kristen, ~10 minutes)
 - › Proactive outreach recruitment as a mechanism to recruit RHN patients (Stephanie, ~10 minutes)
- 2. Hear examples of current research efforts in partnership with MUSC Regional Health Network sites. (Jen, ~10 minutes)**
- 3. Get practical guidance through Q&A and discussion focused on the "how-to" of deploying research in MUSC Regional Health Network settings. (~15 minutes)**



Please feel free to put any questions in the chat throughout today's roundtable!



Welcome!

Goals for today:

- 1. Learn about MUSC's infrastructure and support services for developing, deploying, and sustaining research partnerships across MUSC Regional Health Network sites (e.g., key contacts, regulatory/contracting pathways, operational support).**
 - › Big picture background and current structure (Royce, ~10 minutes)
 - › How to engage RHN sites (Julia and Kristen, ~10 minutes)
 - › Proactive outreach recruitment as a mechanism to recruit RHN patients (Stephanie, ~10 minutes)
- 2. Hear examples of current research efforts in partnership with MUSC Regional Health Network sites. (Jen, ~10 minutes)**
- 3. Get practical guidance through Q&A and discussion focused on the "how-to" of deploying research in MUSC Regional Health Network settings. (~15 minutes)**



Regional Research Expansion Introduction

Royce R. Sampson, MSN, RN, CRA

Collaborating Across the Enterprise

MUSC University and MUSC Health:



Partner

Extending clinical research/clinical trials to rural and underserved areas in SC



Facilitate

Governance and operational committees & developing new processes & pathways











Support

Leveraging University Research Administration Offices, Research Systems, and SCTR services

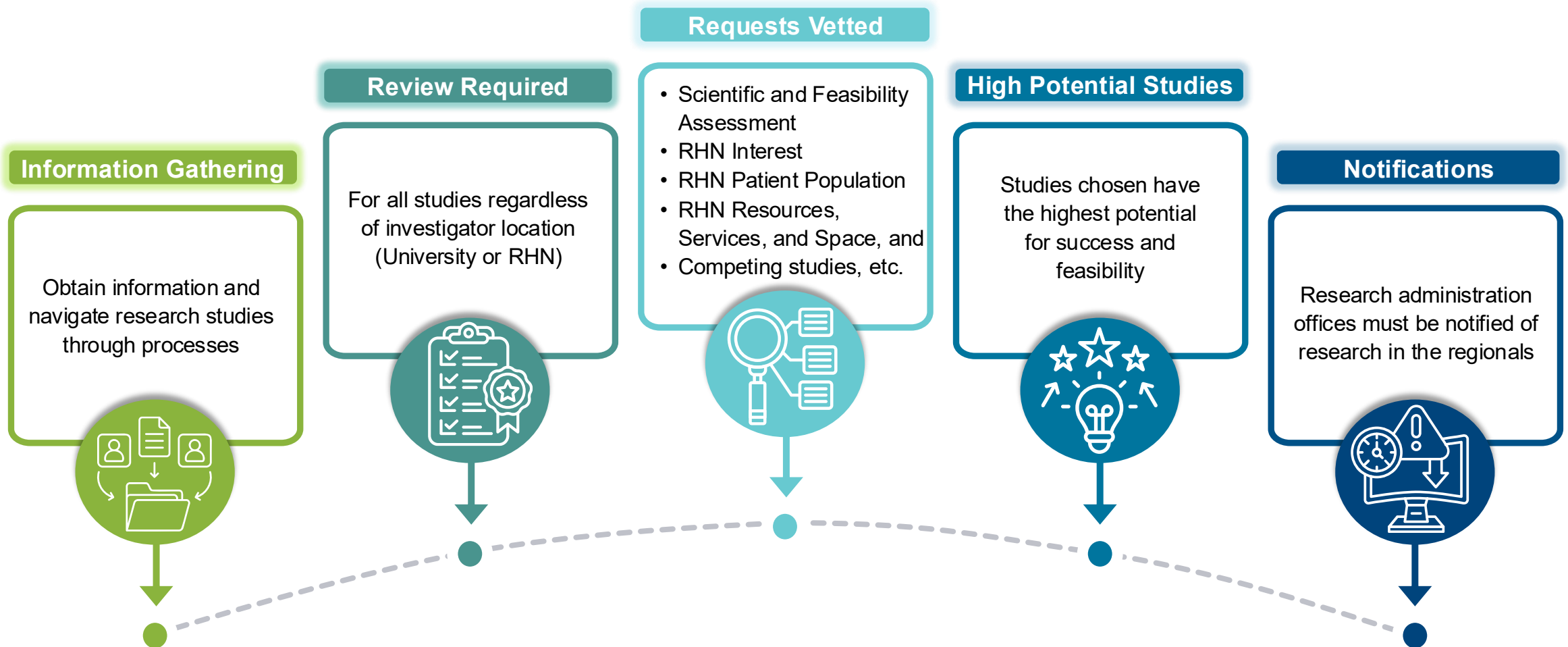


Meet the Research Expansion Team

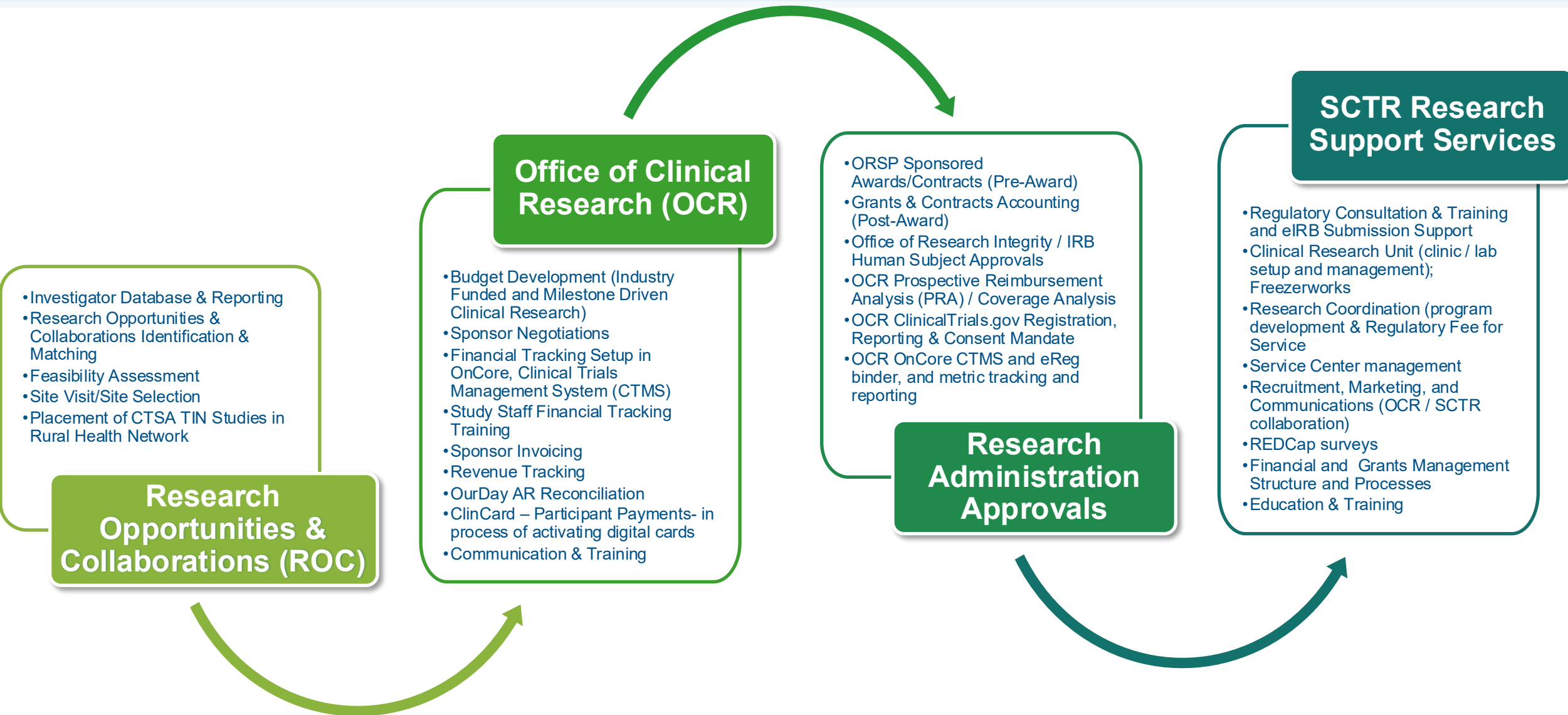
		Role	Specialties
	Royce Sampson	Director, OCR; Administrator, SCTR; Project Director, Research Expansion	Strategic leadership, governance, and financial oversight; research infrastructure development; enterprise and external collaboration; CTAC grant leadership.
	Julia Brenner	Lead Regional Research Program Manager, SCTR	On-site RHN navigator; portfolio support; trial expansion and site capability; procurement streamlining; enterprise liaison.
	Kristen Clasen DeHart	ROC Metrics and Evaluation Program Manager, SCTR/OCR	Governance and operational committee management; SOP development; feasibility and site capability leadership; industry sponsor liaison.
	Signe Denmark	Associate Director, ROC and Finance, OCR/SCTR	Financial strategy for research expansion; fee-for-service budgeting and negotiations; invoicing services; provider compensation initiatives; industry sponsor liaison.
	Halley Harris	Administrative Coordinator, SCTR	Logistics for research site visits and grant activities; event planning; operational support for expansion initiatives.
	Kelly Hickman	Associate Director, Communication & Development, OCR	Strategic communication for research initiatives; marketing support for research centers; training material development; presentation design; community engagement through CTAC leadership.
	Theresa Milne	Service Center Manager, SCTR	Coordinates logistics and event planning for research visits and grant activities; facilitates scheduling and collaboration across teams and external partners.
	Eryn Varano	Service Center Manager, SCTR	Backend financial operations; service center setup and maintenance; cost accounting; revenue and expenditure monitoring.

CTSA Led RHN Research Governance Processes

Study team must submit a SPARCRequest for Regional Research Site Engagement to initiate for Governance Committee Review and Approval:



SCTR and Research Administration Office Key Activities



Expanding Research to MUSC Regional Health Network Sites

Regional Research Portfolio as of 24-April-2026

5 Sites
with established research footprints

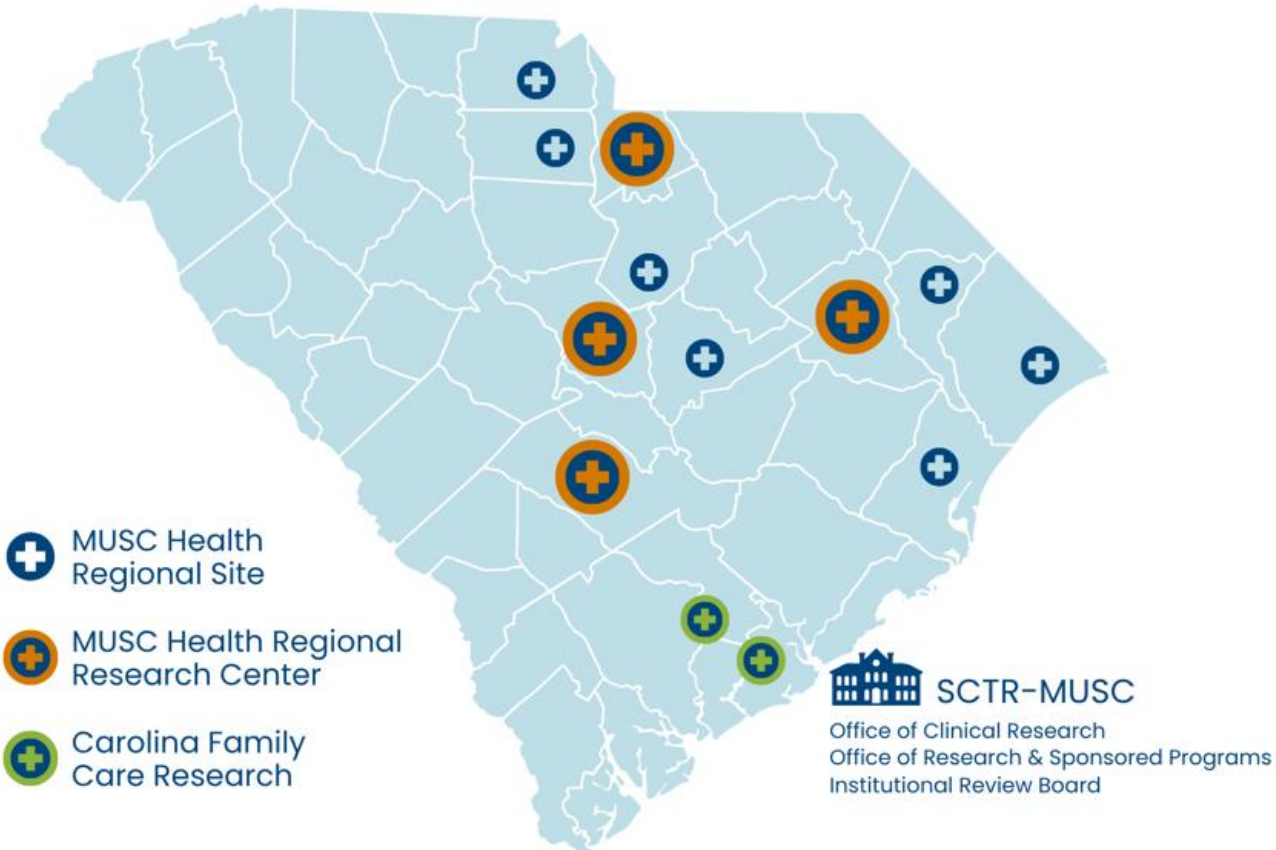
2,842 Studies
evaluated for feasibility
(FY22-FY26)

170 Unique Studies
submitted for Governance Review

156 Unique Studies Approved

88 Unique Studies Activated

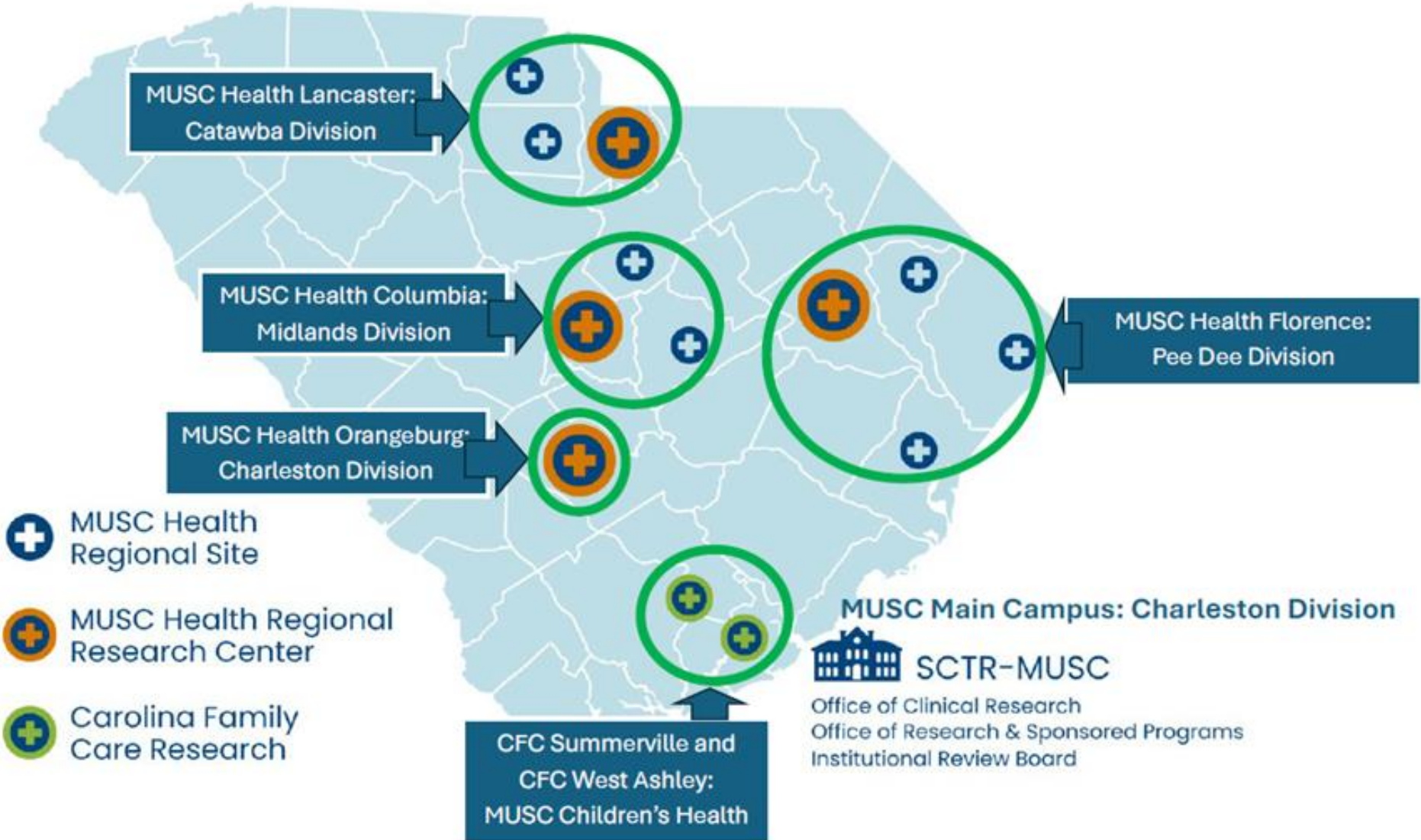
100% of Studies
in health areas important to rural SC



Research Sites and Infrastructure

Julia Brenner, MHA

MUSC Regional Health Network Sites



Florence Research Center (Pee Dee Division)

Facilities

- 2,500 sq. ft. research clinic
- Three patient exam rooms
- Study team desk/computer access
- Supply/document storage
- Lab for processing and storing research samples
- Coordinator services
- Registration area and waiting room
- On-site study monitor workspace

Types of Studies Being Supported

- Cardiology
- Emergency Medicine
- General Surgery
- Humanitarian Use Device
- Internal Medicine & Geriatrics
- Neurology
- Oncology (General & Urologic)
- Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
- Pulmonology



1594 Freedom Blvd., Florence, SC



florenceresearch@musc.edu



+843-674-5170

Lancaster Research Center (Catawba Division)

Facilities

- 1,400 sq. ft. research clinic
- Two patient exam rooms
- Study team desk/computer access
- Supply/document storage
- Lab for processing and storing research samples
- Coordinator services
- Registration area and waiting room
- A private office
- Venipuncture kiosk

Types of Studies Being Supported

- Cardiology
- Gastroenterology & Hepatology
- Neurology / Neurosciences
- Oncology
- Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
- Pulmonology



838 W. Meeting St., Lancaster, SC



lancasterresearch@musc.edu



+803-286-1384

Columbia Research Center (Midlands Division)

Facilities

- 2,200 sq. ft. research clinic
- One patient exam room
- Study team desk/computer access
- Supply/document storage
- Lab draw
- A private office
- Specimen mailing
- Coordinator services
- Regulatory services
- Data collection

Types of Studies Being Supported

- Cardiology / Cardiovascular Surgery
- Humanitarian Use Device
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
- Pulmonology



2001 Laurel St., Columbia, SC



columbiaresearch@musc.edu



+803-255-2927

Orangeburg Research Center (Charleston Division)

Facilities

- 300 sq. ft. of dedicated research offices within shared 16,000 sq. ft. DAI building
- 15 clinical rooms (pre-op, post-op, fast-track, isolation)
- Study team desk/computer access
- Supply/document storage
- Coordinator services
- Registration area and waiting room
- A private office

Types of Studies Being Supported

- Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology
- Vascular Surgery (Dialysis Access)
- Interventional Radiology



3000 St Matthews Rd., Orangeburg, SC



researchexpansion@musc.edu



+803-395-2021

Research Expansion Regional Engagement

Kristen Clasen DeHart, MEd

Regional Research Engagement Model Examples

Engagement models are flexible and should align with study needs, site capabilities, and patient access considerations.

Regional Sub-Investigator



- PI partners with a regional sub-Investigator and regional research staff to conduct all or selected study activities.

Regional Research Staff Support



- PI works directly with regional research staff (no sub-I required)
- Study activities may occur on-site at the regional location or be supported remotely
- Best suited for less complex protocols

Fully Remote



- Study conducted entirely by the PI/research team
- No on-site regional staff involvement required
- Appropriate for minimal-risk or decentralized protocols

Regional Research Site Engagement: What to Expect

Early guidance and hands-on support

The Regional Research Expansion team partners with study teams early to help plan for Regional Site engagement, clarify expectations and timelines, and identify required resources and services.

A structured, supported review process

Submitting a SPARCRequest initiates a structured review process that may include:

- Initial Consultation
- Feasibility Evaluation
- Governance Committee Review

Regional Research Expansion Governance Committee

All clinical research studies and activities proposed to occur at MUSC Health regional sites, including grant proposals, Humanitarian Use Device (HUD), and registry studies, must be submitted to the Regional Research Expansion Governance Committee for scientific and feasibility review and approval prior to submission and initiation of study activities.



Regional Research Site Engagement

Submit → Consult → Feasibility → Review



sparc.musc.edu

▼ Regional Research Site Engagement
Regional Research Site Engagement: Initial Consultation
Regional Research Site Engagement: Pre-Governance Committee Feasibility Evaluation
Regional Research Expansion Governance Committee Review
Regional Research Expansion Governance Committee Protocol Amendment Review

- 1 Submit**
Regional Research Site Engagement: Initial Consultation (SPARCRequest)
- 2 Initial Consultation**
Initial review of proposed study, clarification of expectations and timelines, and identification of requested Regional Site resources and services.
- 3 Feasibility Evaluation**
Operational and logistical feasibility is evaluated, including staffing, budget, patient population, competing studies, and site capacity, with input from Regional Site Research Program Managers and key stakeholders.
- 4 Governance Committee Review**
Once feasibility is confirmed, PI/study team presents to the Governance Committee for approval to submit grant proposal and conduct research activities at Regional Sites.

Planning Your Submission

2026 Governance Committee Feasibility and Meeting Schedule

- The schedule outlines required feasibility evaluation deadlines and corresponding meeting dates for each month's Governance Committee.
- **Plan ahead**
Investigators and study teams are encouraged to review the timeline carefully and submit requests **early** to allow sufficient time for feasibility evaluation, coordination, and Committee review.

Feasibility Evaluation Deadline*	Committee Meeting Date
May 6, 2026	May 13, 2026
June 3, 2026	June 10, 2026
July 1, 2026	July 8, 2026
August 5, 2026	August 12, 2026
September 2, 2026	September 9, 2026
October 7, 2026	October 14, 2026
November 4, 2026	November 11, 2026
December 2, 2026	December 9, 2026

**Feasibility Evaluations should be completed by 5:00 PM on the due date for consideration at the corresponding meeting.*

LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!

RESEARCH EXPANSION TEAM



researchoppcollab@musc.edu
researchexpansion@musc.edu



[Internal Regional Research Website](#)



Welcome!

Goals for today:

1. Learn about MUSC's infrastructure and support services for developing, deploying, and sustaining research partnerships across MUSC Regional Health Network sites (e.g., key contacts, regulatory/contracting pathways, operational support).
 - › Big picture background and current structure (Royce, ~10 minutes)
 - › How to engage RHN sites (Julia and Kristen, ~10 minutes)
 - › Proactive outreach recruitment as a mechanism to recruit RHN patients (Stephanie, ~10 minutes)
2. Hear examples of current research efforts in partnership with MUSC Regional Health Network sites. (Jen, ~10 minutes)
3. Get practical guidance through Q&A and discussion focused on the "how-to" of deploying research in MUSC Regional Health Network settings. (~15 minutes)



Patient Outreach Recruitment (POR)

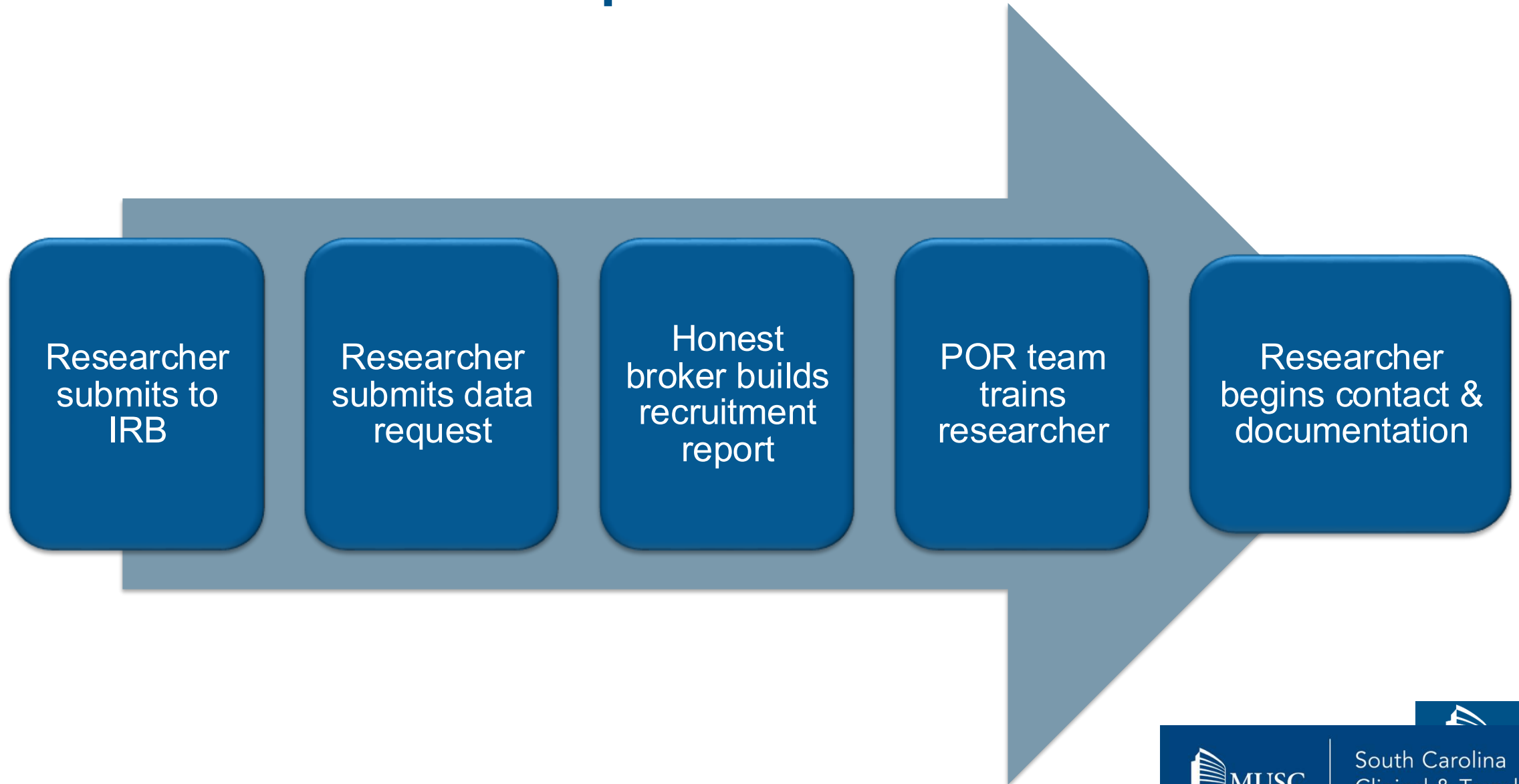
Stephanie Gentilin, MA, CCRP

Patient Outreach Recruitment (POR)

- Definition: Contacting MUSC patients who may meet study eligibility criteria, but are not clinical patients of the PI or Co-Is, about a research study (aka “cold contact” recruitment)
- With IRB approval, research personnel, can contact patients who have not indicated an “Opt-Out” Research Contact Preference
- Study teams must document patient contact (via Epic Reporting Workbench or REDCap)



Execution of the POR process



Researcher initiation of POR or recruitment services

- All recruitment services found in SPARC under SUCCESS Center
 - Recruitment, POR, and ISP
- POR researcher resource website
 - Found under the SUCCESS Center page of SCTR website (sctr.musc.edu)
- Trial Innovation Network toolbox
 - Filter by RIC resources

Employing Patient-Outreach Methods for MUSC Patient Recruitment

- What is Patient-Outreach Recruitment? +
- Patient-Outreach as a Potential Recruitment Strategy +
- Communication Scripts and Guidance for Submitting to the IRB +
- Requesting Patient-Outreach Recruitment Reports +
- Utilizing REDCap Recruitment Projects and Documenting Patient Contact +
- Education and Training +

MUSC-supported recruitment websites

- SCresearch.org
 - Free directory with lay friendly descriptions of studies listed in eIRB that are actively recruiting
 - Can search by topic, institution, researcher
 - Make sure box is checked in eIRB to have study in the directory list

SCresearch.org is the South Carolina Research Studies Directory designed specifically to help people, like you, locate research studies in which to participate.

MUSC
Medical University of South Carolina

South Carolina
Clinical & Translational
Research Institute

Welcome!

Goals for today:

1. Learn about MUSC's infrastructure and support services for developing, deploying, and sustaining research partnerships across MUSC Regional Health Network sites (e.g., key contacts, regulatory/contracting pathways, operational support).
 - › Big picture background and current structure (Royce, ~10 minutes)
 - › How to engage RHN sites (Julia and Kristen, ~10 minutes)
 - › Proactive outreach recruitment as a mechanism to recruit RHN patients (Stephanie, ~10 minutes)
2. **Hear examples of current research efforts in partnership with MUSC Regional Health Network sites. (Jen, ~10 minutes)**
3. Get practical guidance through Q&A and discussion focused on the "how-to" of deploying research in MUSC Regional Health Network settings. (~15 minutes)



Examples of Current Research Efforts in Partnership with MUSC Regional Health Network Sites

Jennifer Dahne, PhD

Director of Research Innovation and Integration, Office of the Vice President for Research

Outline

Brief Orientation to the Research We Do In My Lab

**Decentralized and Remote Trial Methods
Supporting Trial Infrastructure**

**Study Progress/How Things Have Been Going
with RHN Deployment**



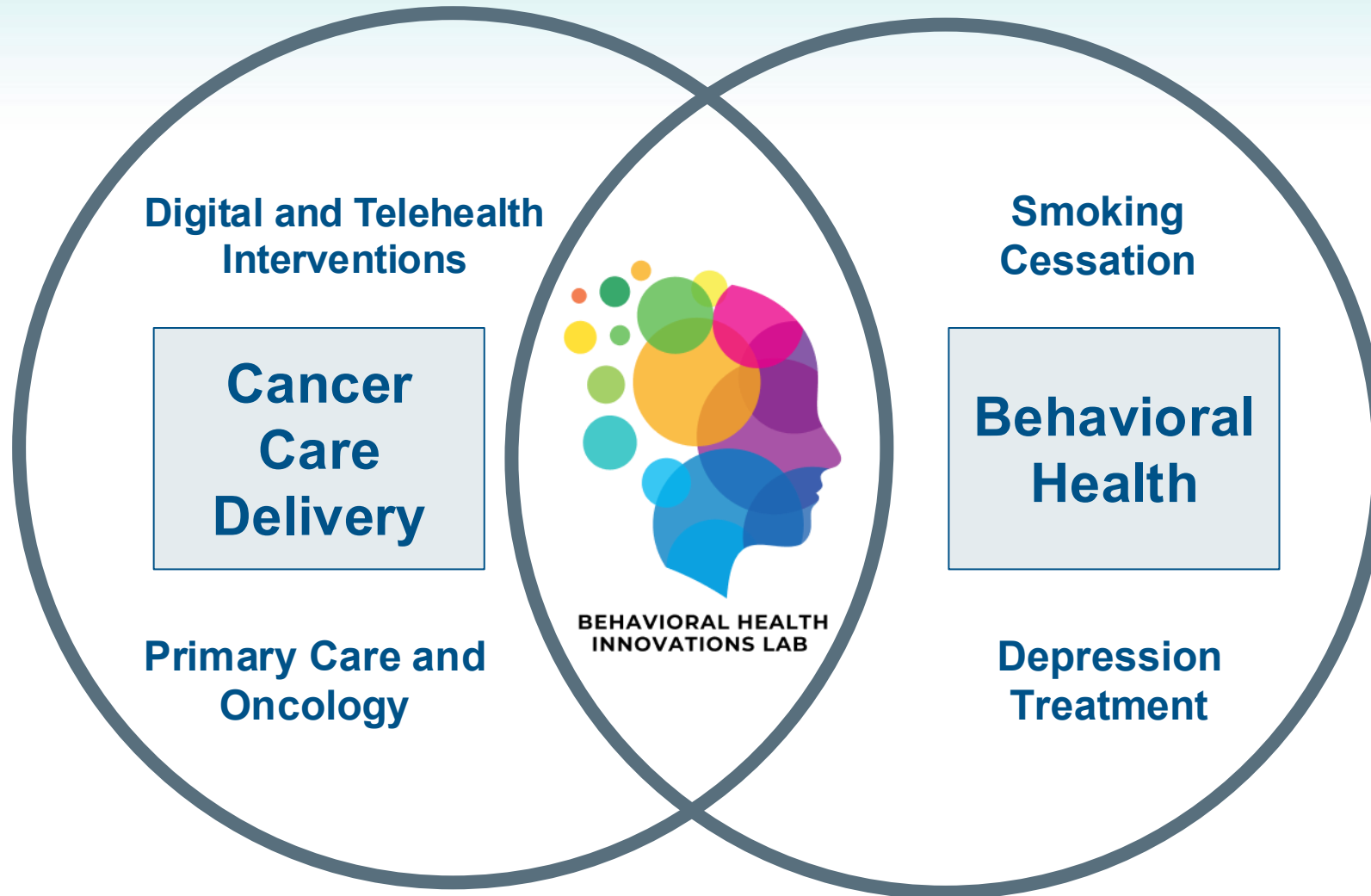
Outline

Brief Orientation to the Research We Do In My Lab

**Decentralized and Remote Trial Methods
Supporting Trial Infrastructure**

**Study Progress/How Things Have Been Going
with RHN Deployment**





Digital and Telehealth Interventions

Cancer Care Delivery

Primary Care and Oncology



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS LAB

Smoking Cessation

Behavioral Health

Depression Treatment

Two Ongoing Trials in Partnership with RHN Sites



Funding Mechanism: NCI R01

Current Status: End of Year 3

Planned Accrual: N=288

Clinical Focus: Smoking cessation/cancer prevention

Clinical Partnership: Rural primary care

Intervention: Telehealth electronic visit

Patient Eligibility: Adult, current cigarette smoking, engaged with primary care

Follow Up Duration: 6 months

Primary Endpoint: Biochemically verified abstinence

Recruitment Approach: Proactive outreach recruitment via MyChart, text message, email, phone call



Funding Mechanism: NCI R01

Current Status: End of Year 2

Planned Accrual: N=279

Clinical Focus: Depression/cancer survivorship

Clinical Partnership: Oncology care

Intervention: Digital mental health intervention (app)

Patient Eligibility: Adult, likely incurable cancer, >moderate symptoms of depression

Follow Up Duration: 3 months

Primary Endpoint: Change in depression symptoms

Recruitment Approach: Proactive outreach recruitment via MyChart, text message, email, phone call



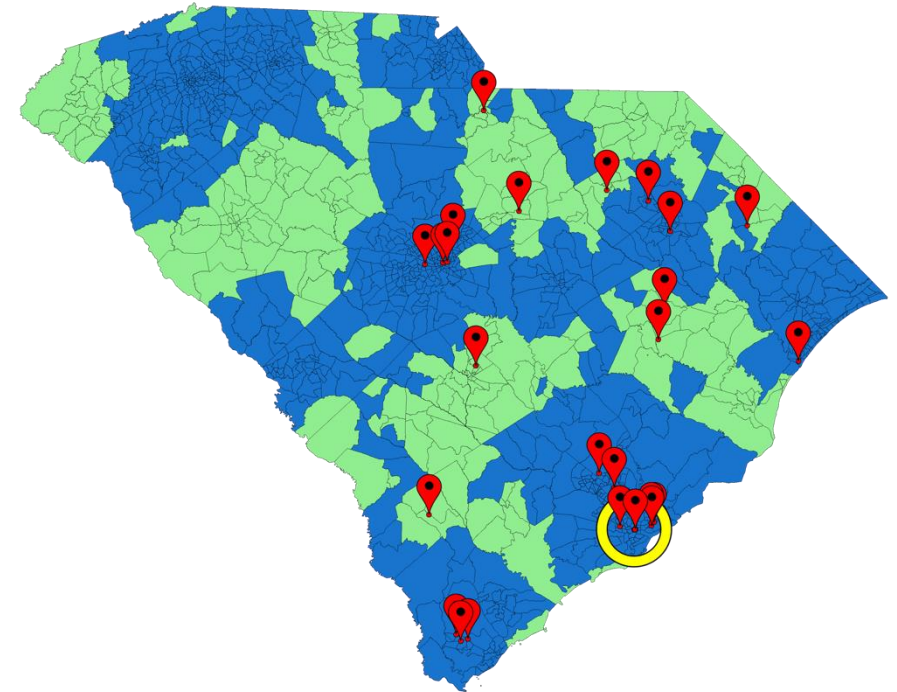
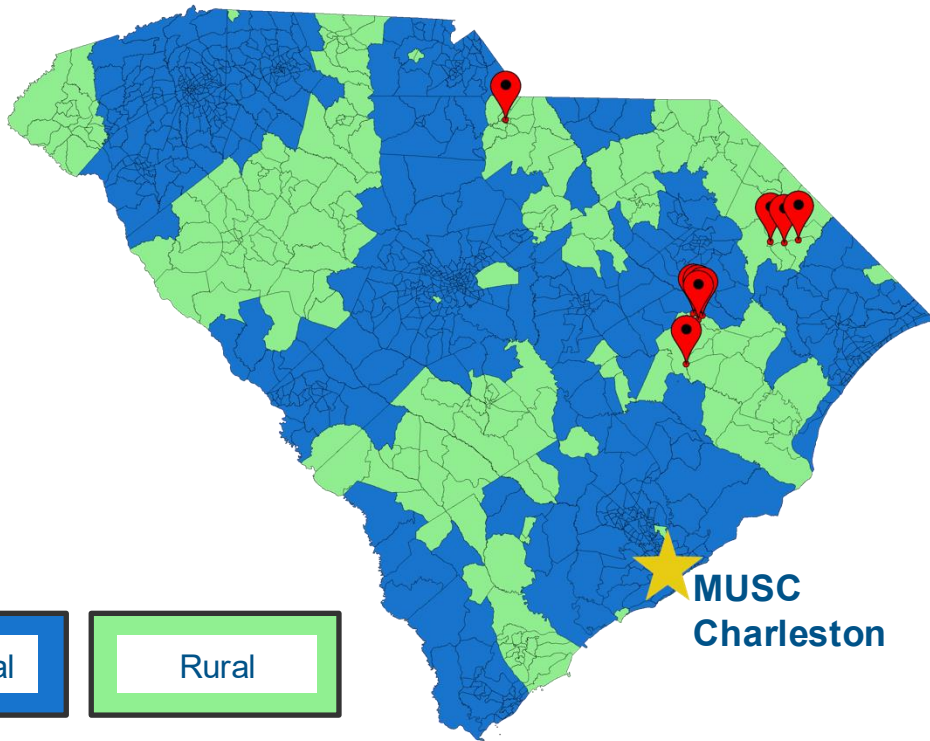
Two Ongoing Trials in Partnership with RHN Sites

**INSPIRE
TO QUIT**

By The Medical University of South Carolina
and The National Institutes of Health



IMPACT
IMPROVING PROACTIVE APPROACHES FOR
CANCER SURVIVORS' MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT



Outline

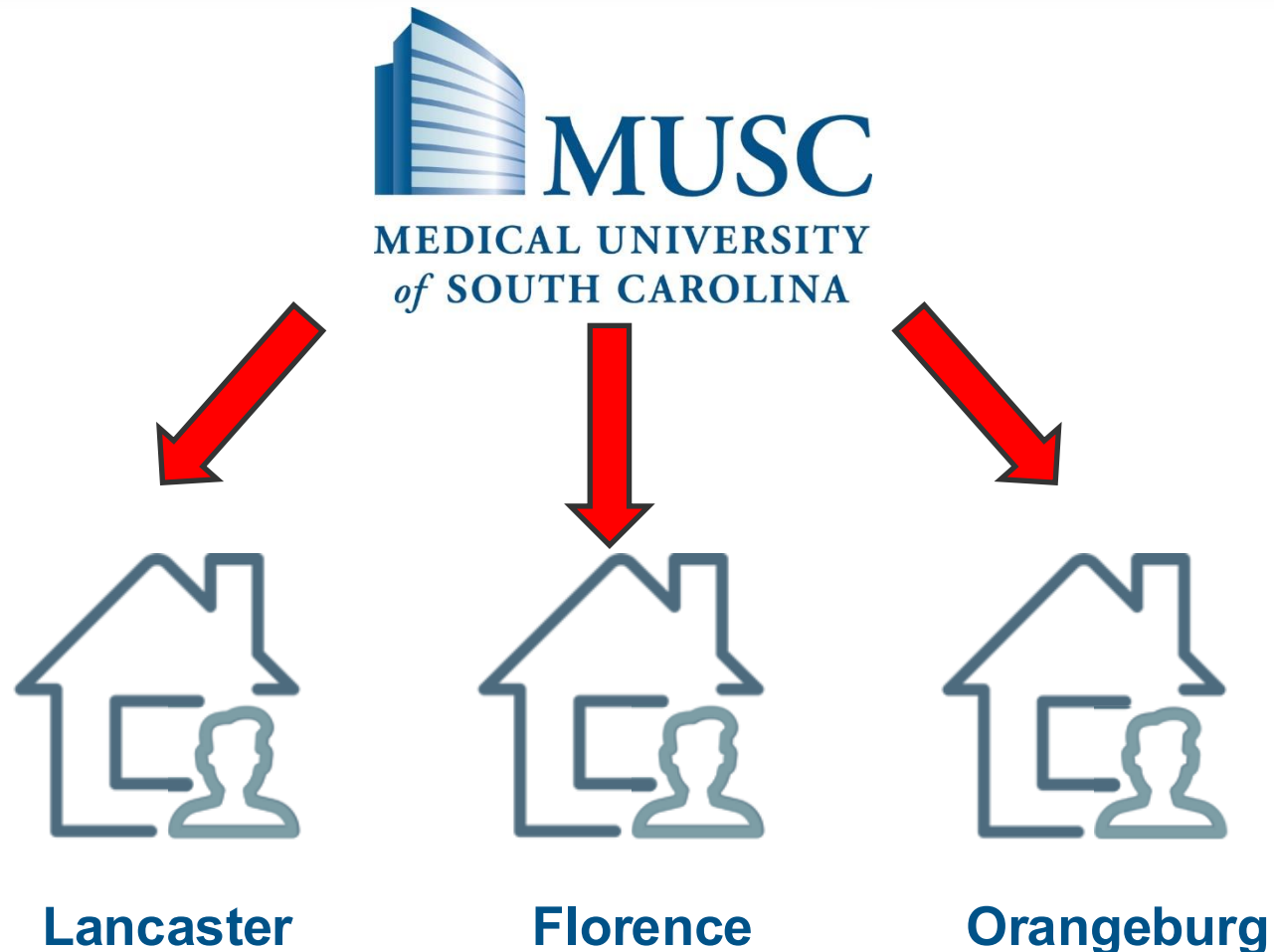
Brief Orientation to the Research We Do In My Lab

**Decentralized and Remote Trial Methods
Supporting Trial Infrastructure**

**Study Progress/How Things Have Been Going
with RHN Deployment**



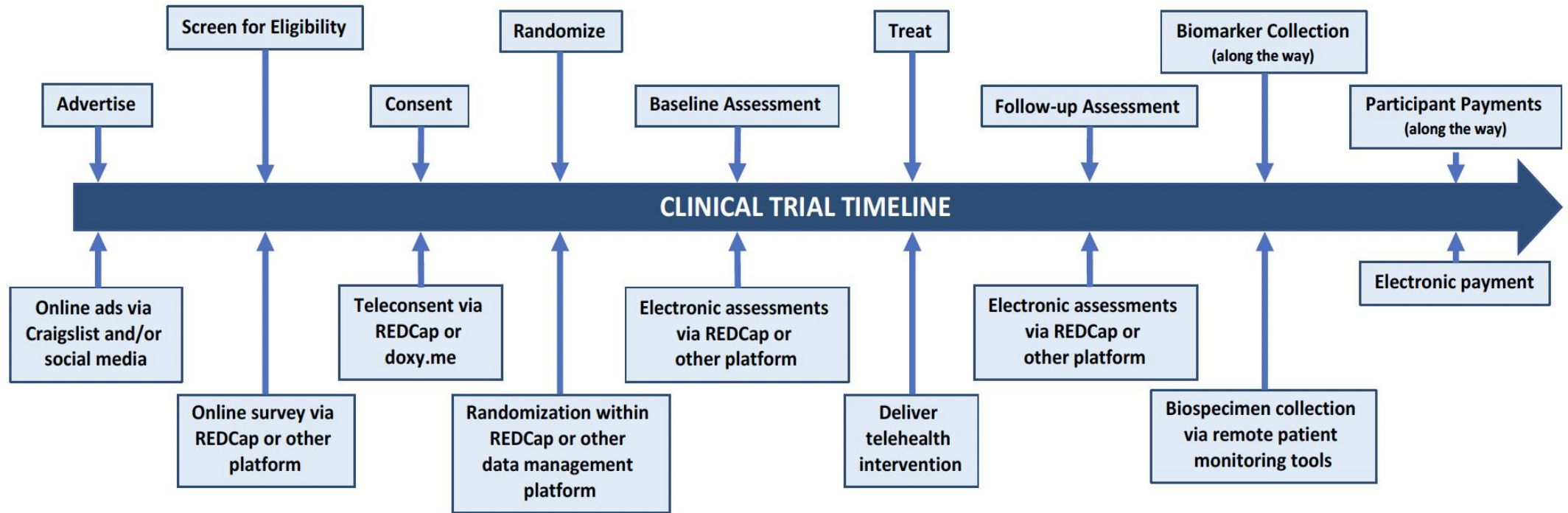
The Promise of Decentralized Trials



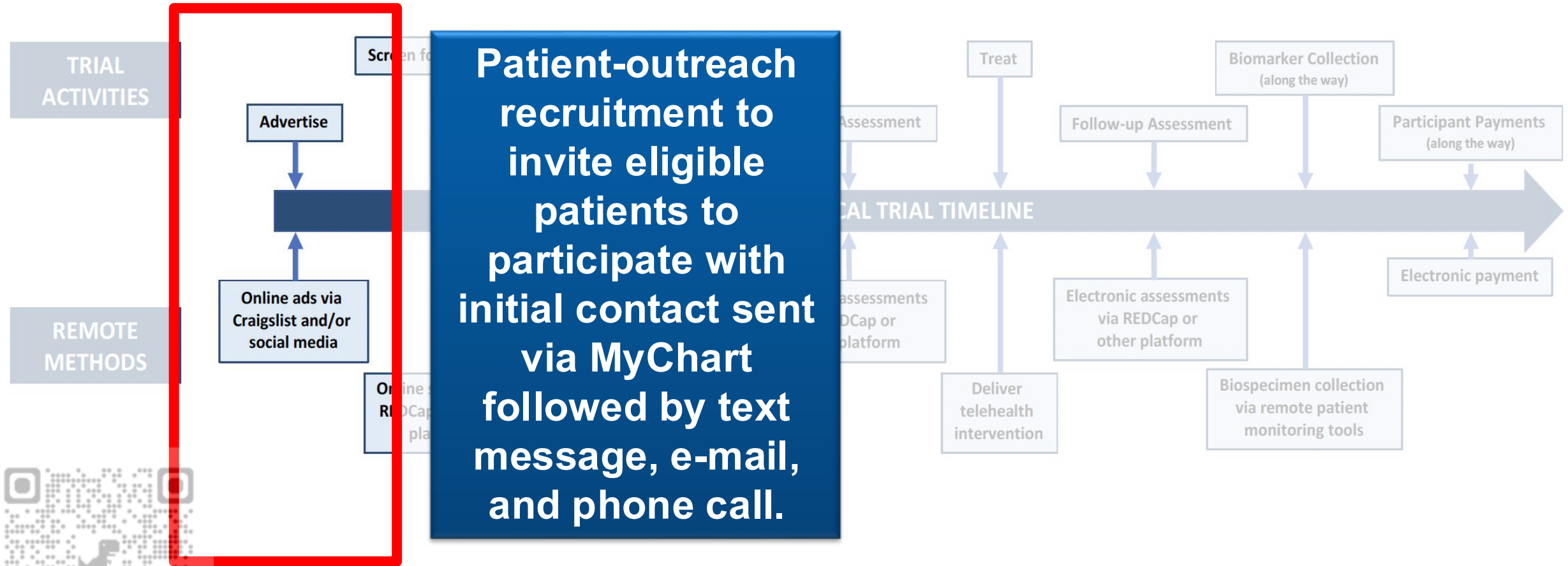
Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline

TRIAL
ACTIVITIES

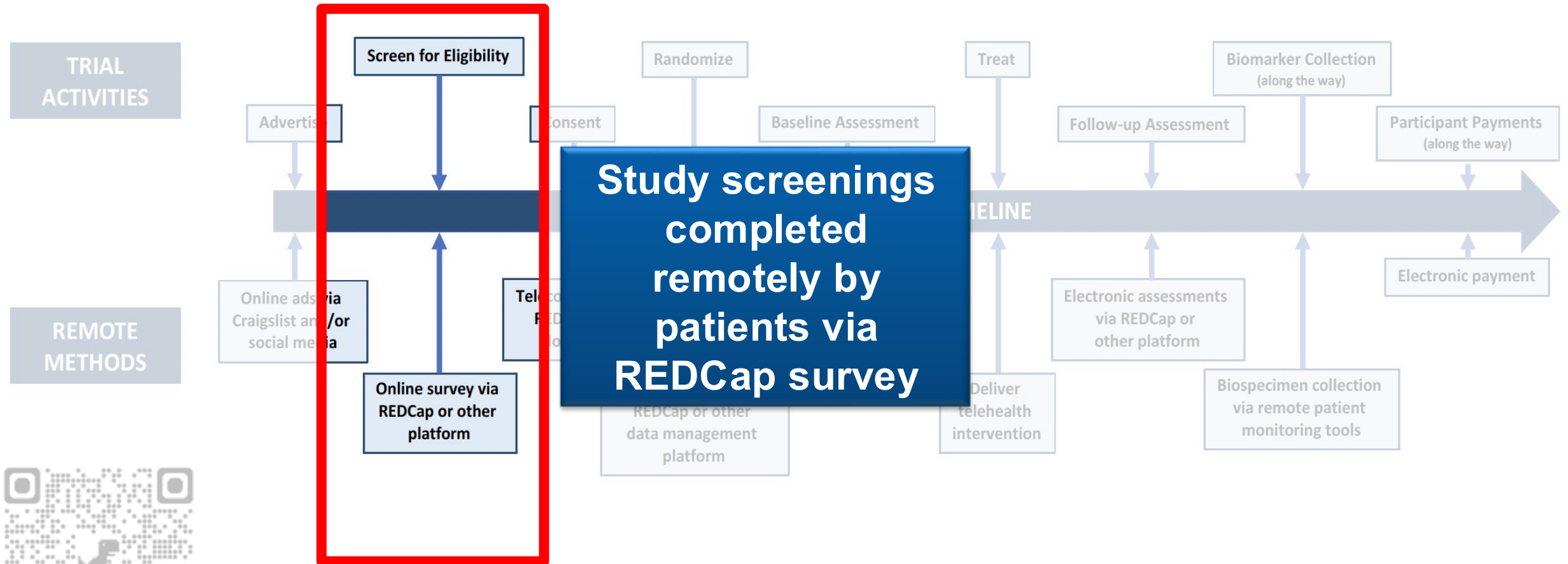
REMOTE
METHODS



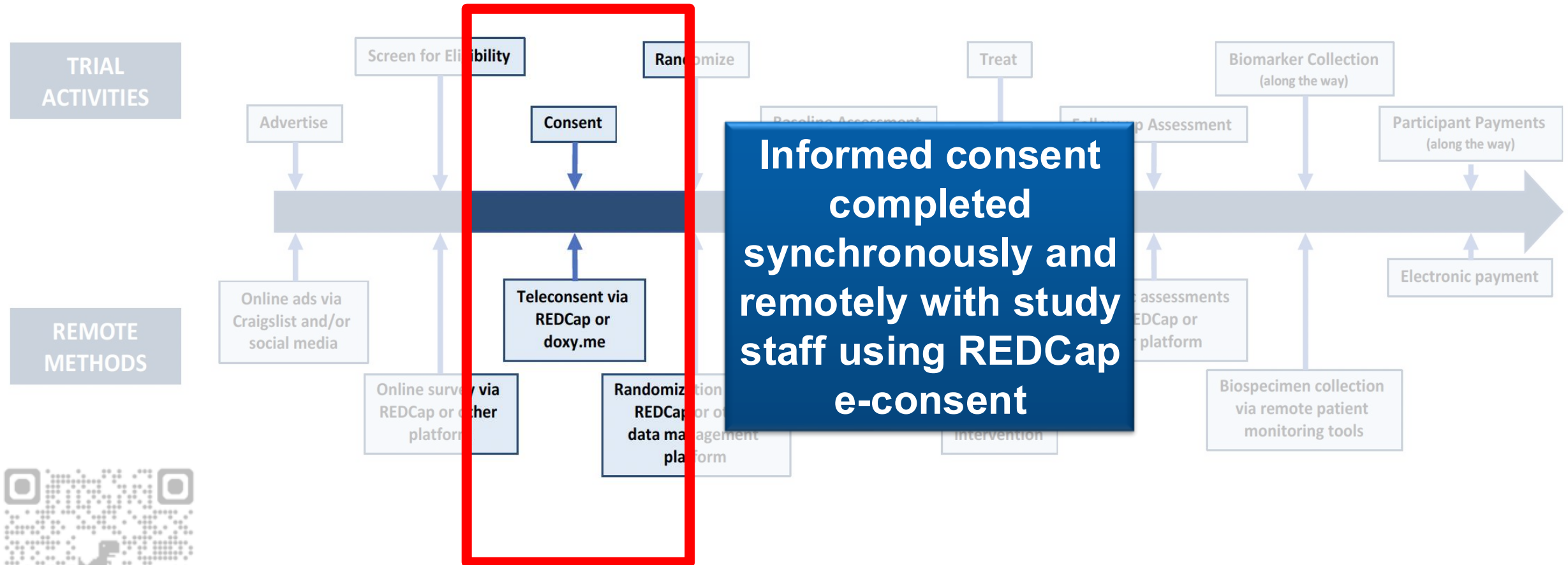
Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline



Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline



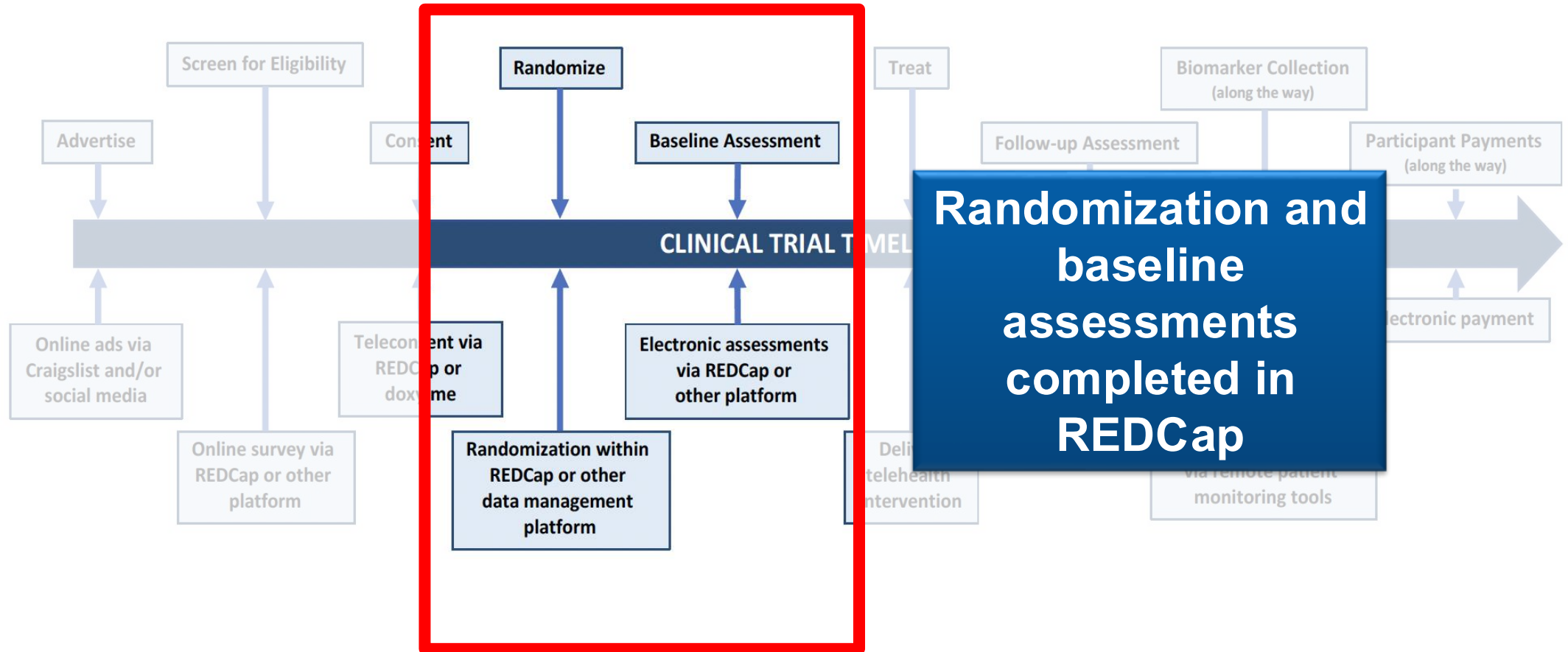
Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline



Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline

TRIAL ACTIVITIES

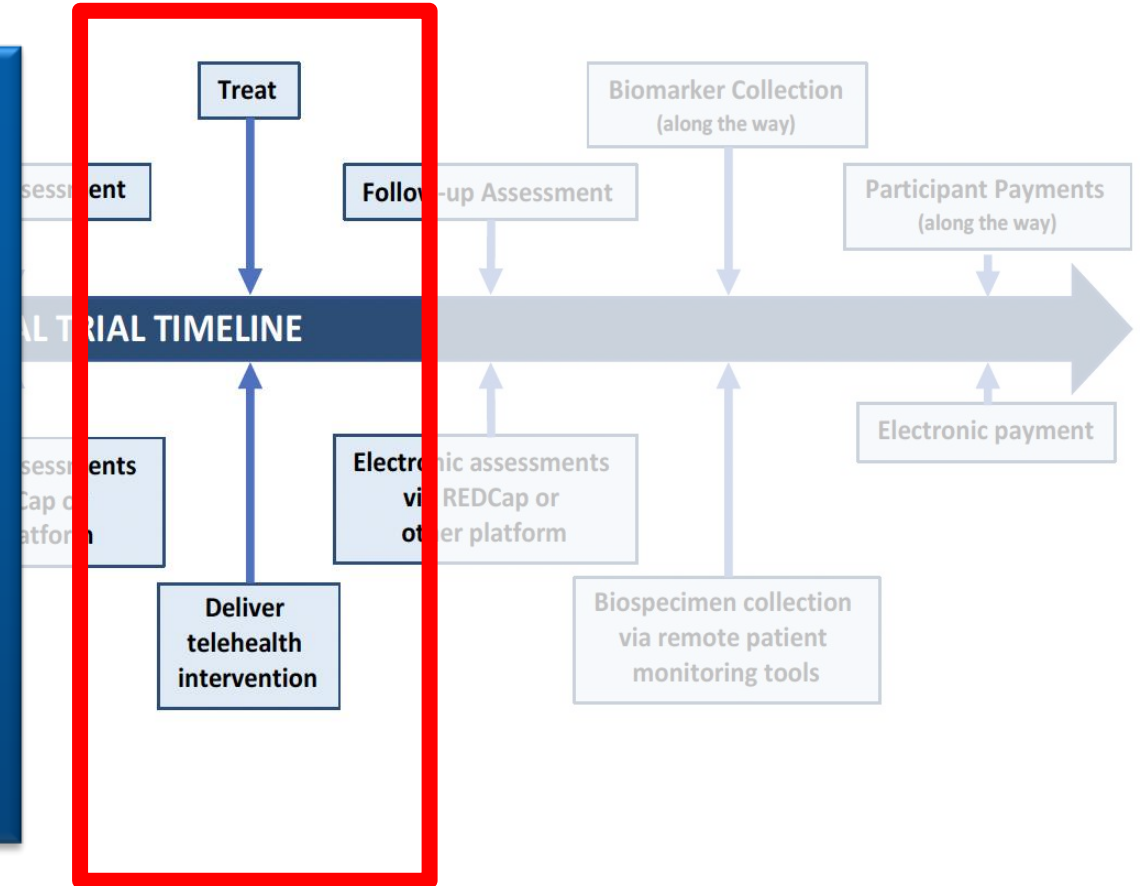
REMOTE METHODS



Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline

Digital mental health intervention for depression is downloaded remotely by the patient with onboarding support provided by study staff

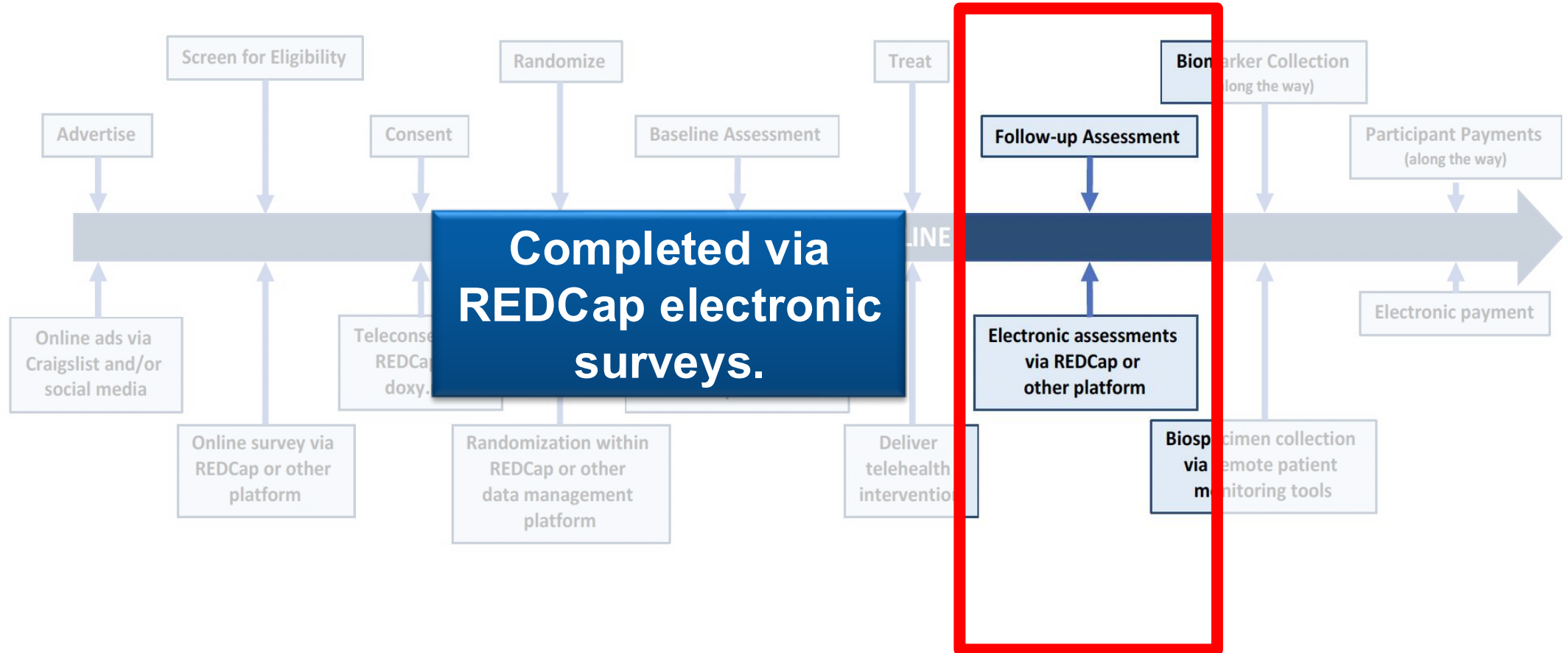
E-visit intervention is delivered via MyChart and routed to the patient's provider for review via Epic. Medications are e-prescribed to the patient's pharmacy of record.



Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline

TRIAL
ACTIVITIES

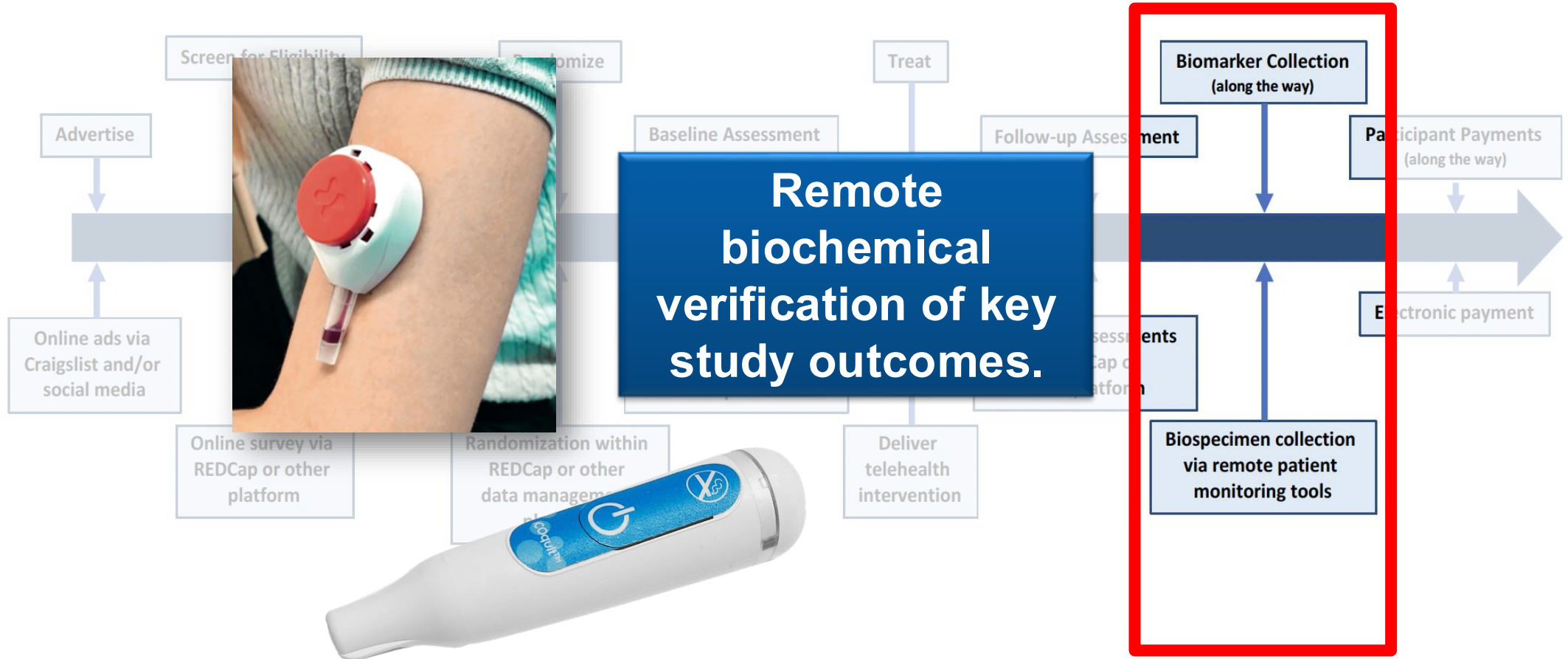
REMOTE
METHODS



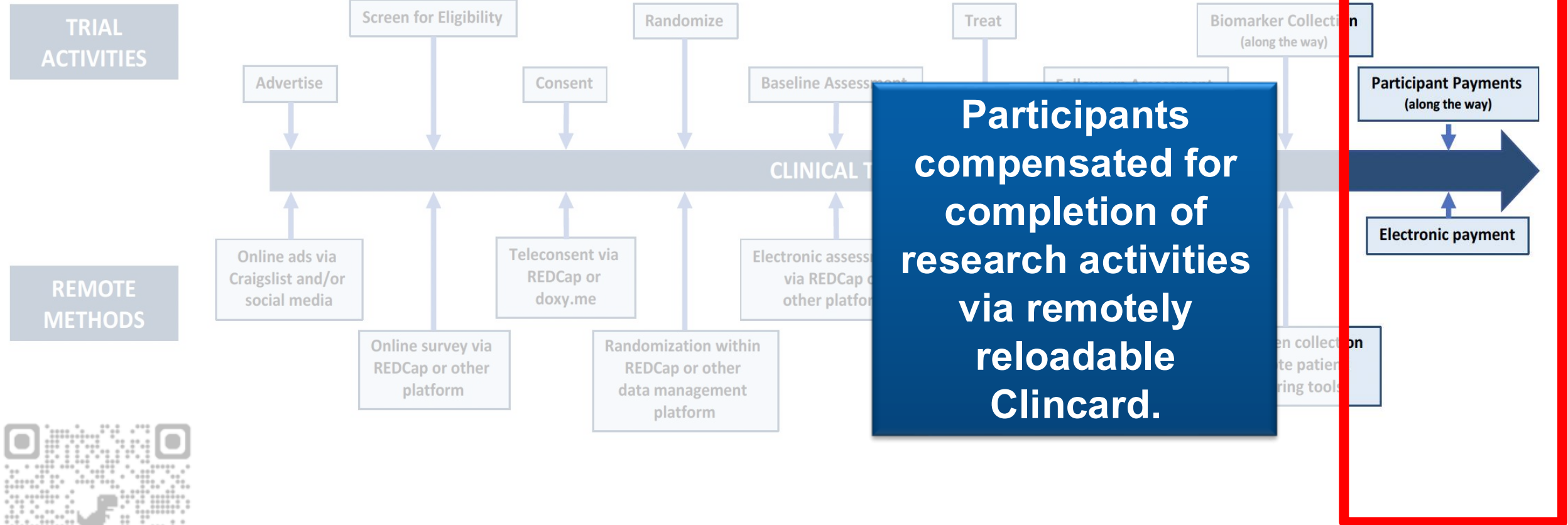
Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline

TRIAL
ACTIVITIES

REMOTE
METHODS



Remote Methods Across the Clinical Trial Pipeline



Outline

Brief Orientation to the Research We Do In My Lab

**Decentralized and Remote Trial Methods
Supporting Trial Infrastructure**

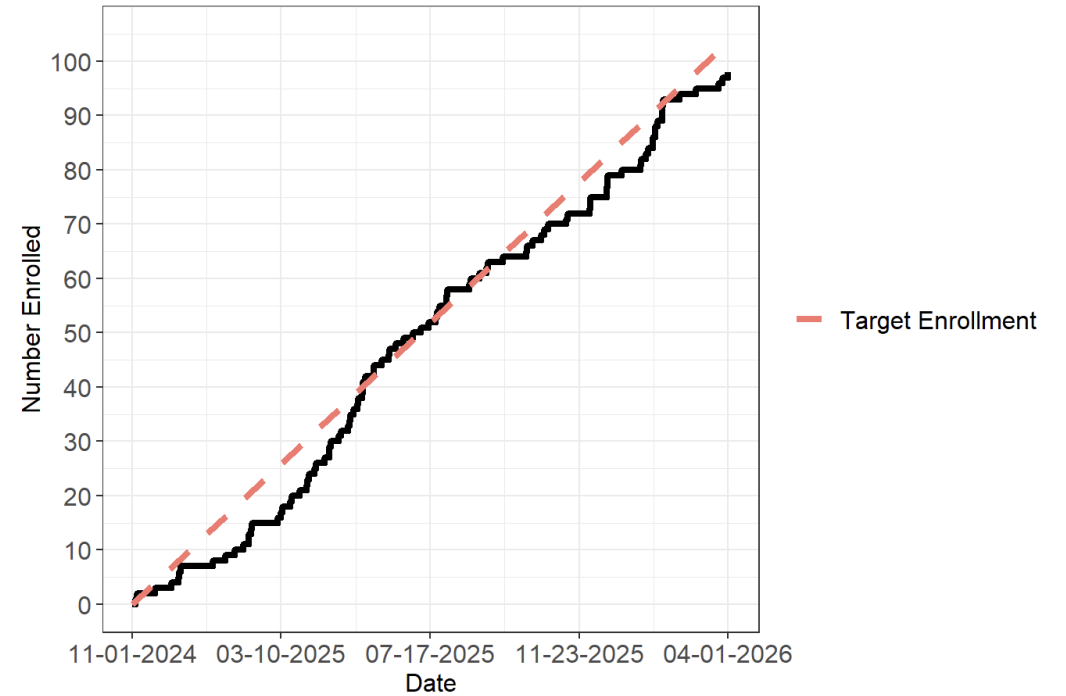
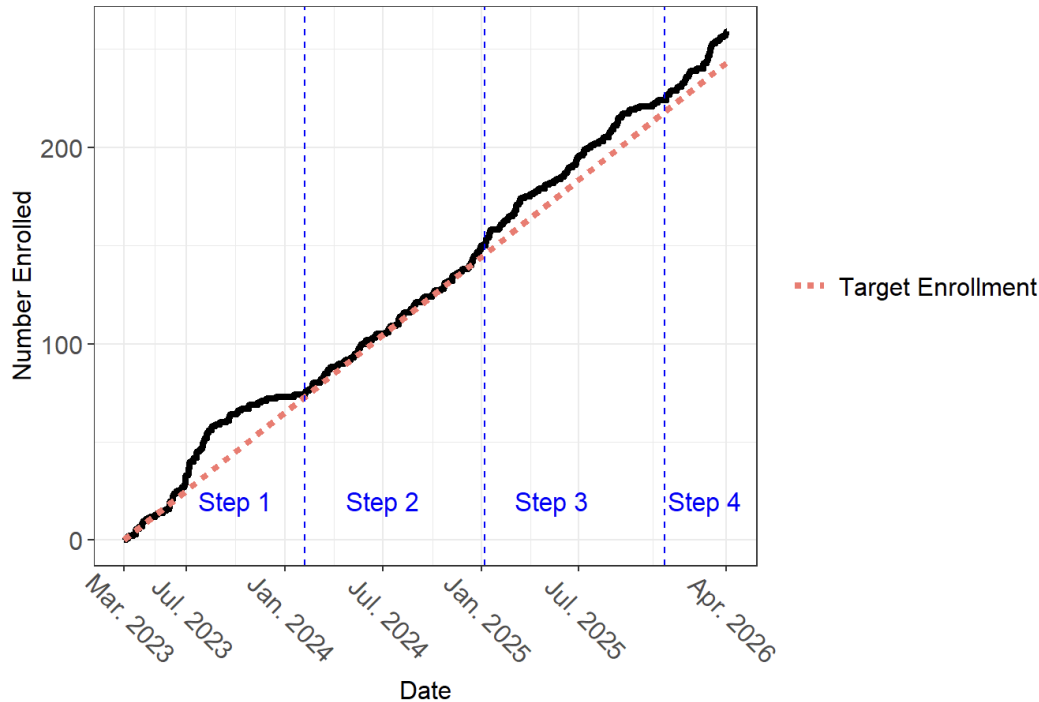
**Study Progress/How Things Have Been Going
with RHN Deployment**



Study Progress



By The Medical University of South Carolina
and The National Institutes of Health



Study Progress



Enrolled N	257
Study Retention (final assessment)	78.1%
Successful Remote Biomarker Capture (final assessment)	70.7%
% Female	67.2%
% White	70.7%
Age M(SD)	48.1(12.7)



Enrolled N	97
Study Retention (final assessment)	94%
Successful Remote Biomarker Capture (final assessment)	N/A
% Female	56.7%
% White	79.4%
Age M(SD)	57.3(12.2)



Questions?

Royce: sampsonr@musc.edu

Julia: brennerj@musc.edu

Kristen: clasen@musc.edu

Stephanie: mamaysl@musc.edu

Jen: dahne@musc.edu

