# 110: Monitoring vs Assurance Managing Risk in a Decentralized Environment

Krista Kenney, Ph.D.
Associate Director Sponsored Programs Assurance and Research Compliance

Vanessa Peoples
Director Sponsored Programs Assurance and Research Compliance

June 2023



## **Session Objectives**

- □ Understand the difference between monitoring and audit assurance
- □ Review key elements of an effective compliance program based on U.S. Department of Justice guidance
- □ Understand the three lines of defense model and how it can be used in effective risk management
- Understand how both monitoring and assurance activities are important in mitigating risks with practical examples





### Monitoring

- "Near" Real Time
- Ongoing
- Targeted Business Activities (Risk Based)
- Proactively Identify Issues and Trends
- Inform Corrective Action Plans
- Identify Need for Focused Audits

#### **Audit Assurance**

- Retrospective
- Internal Controls Focused
- Detect Irregularities
- Limited time, frequency and scope
- Evaluate the effectiveness of Monitoring Programs
- Recommends improvements in controls







**Auditing Function** 

**Monitoring Function** 

- ☐ Both are needed to inform risk assessments
- ☐ Difficult to have an effective compliance program without both



## Risk Management Three Lines of Defense



- ☐ Shared responsibility; Working together at different stages to provide increased protection against an array of risks
- ☐ Encourages a stronger risk management culture while eliminating inefficiencies, gaps and overlap



# Risk Management Three Lines of Defense

- Determines level of independence
- Drives frequency of review

Third Line of Defense (Audit Assurance)

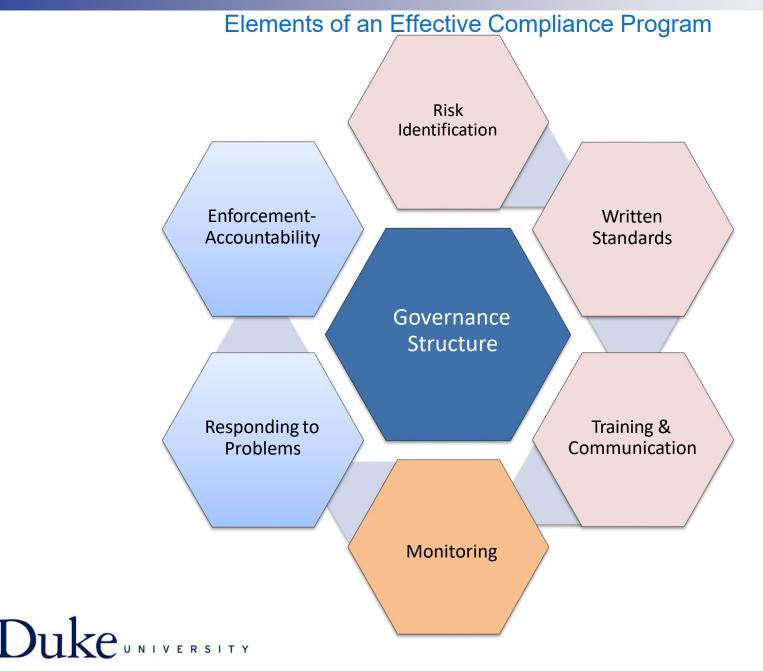
Second Line of Defense

(Oversight Functions; Monitoring)

First Line of Defense

(Business Operations; Control Activities)







# Getting to Know Duke's Research Portfolio







APPROXIMATELY \$1.5B IN RESEARCH FUNDING

APPROXIMATELY 80% FEDERALLY FUNDED

CLINICAL AND BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH



# Duke Research Audit Assurance Approach SPARC

- ☐ Assurance engagements support the two research institutional compliance risks
  - □ Sponsored Program Administration, Oversight and Reporting
  - □ Promote and Maintain Research Excellence, Responsibility and Integrity
- □ Evaluate **internal controls** to identify strengths and gaps
- Evaluate **process design effectiveness and efficiency** against operational objectives and risk tolerance









#### **Vertical Assurance:**

In-depth evaluation of a unique business process or activity within a single unit (i.e. CRU)

#### **Enterprise Assurance:**

Evaluation of institutionally driven processes or activity across multiple units (e.g., departments, divisions, clinical research units)

#### **SPARC**

#### **Engagements**

#### **Directed-Reviews:**

Focused advisory or investigative reviews performed at the request of research leadership or central oversight body (e.g., Institutional Review Board (IRB))

#### **Sponosr Inspection Assistance:**

Assist study teams with federal, clinical research inspections (e.g., U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), etc.)



### Clinical Research At Duke



Clinical Research Unit (CRU)

Established in 2012





**CRU Structure** 

**Medical Director** 

Research Practice Manager

Financial Practice Manager

Data Practice Manager

(upcoming)



**Active Studies FY22** 

2,280 active clinical research studies

Approximately 24K study participants



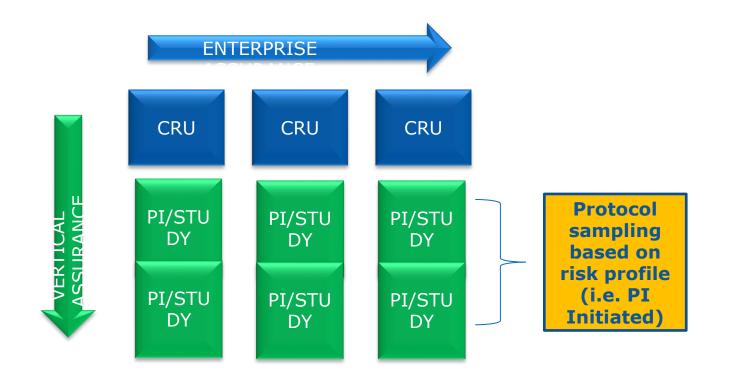
## The Evolution of Audit Assurance

	Prior to 2018 (CTQA)	New Approach (SPARC)
Client	Principal Investigator	CRU leadership
Focus	Compliant/Non-compliant	Risk profile
Coverage	Individual protocols	Health and quality of CRU research processes
Report	Technical	Executive (business context)
Standard	100% regulatory compliance	Assessing Risk & Internal Controls (Impact vs Likelihood)

Reason for Change: Provide view into the overall health of the research enterprise for Duke Leadership and Board of Trustees Audit and Compliance Committee



### New Audit Assurance Review Structure





### SPARC APPROACH





### Clinical Quality Management Program

- □ Risk based monitoring program
- □ Established in 2018
- □ Goals:
  - □ Formalize CRU responsibilities for monitoring prospective, consenting and no-monitored studies
  - □ Provide institutional standards for Clinical Research Units (CRU) to conduct ongoing internal monitoring
  - □ Identify issues and trends to support improved research quality
  - □ Provide transparent reporting to research leadership
- □ CRU-designated quality management (QM) reviewers
- □ Areas monitored: informed consent, participant eligibility, and safety reporting
- Inform audit activity based on trends identified



# Clinical Quality Management Program Protocol Review Frequency

Complexity Level	Regulatory Reviews	Participant Chart Reviews – by Cumulative Enrollment		
		1-39	40-99	>=100
High	Quarterly every 3 months	Quarterly 3 records	Quarterly 10% of records	Quarterly 10 records
Medium	Bi-annually every 6 months	Quarterly 3 records	Quarterly 10% of records	Quarterly 10 records
Low	Annually once per year	Bi-annually 3 records	Bi-annually 10% of records	Bi-annually 10 records

- **High**: Prospective Phase I–III interventional procedure, device, and/or drug studies (novel product or indication). All studies under an IND or IDE with the FDA
- **Medium**: Studies using FDA-approved drugs, devices, or biologics for their approved indication. Other studies that do not meet high complexity but are more than minimal risk (e.g., behavioral intervention, complex observational, tissue collection).
- **Low**: Studies using procedures generally considered to be minimal or low-risk (e.g., blood sample collection, imaging not using sedation, questionnaires, and behavioral surveys)



# Risk Management Three Lines of Defense

 Determines level of independence

Drives frequency of review

OARC SPARC

Clinical Quality
Management Program
(CQMP)

**Study Team** 



# Sample Audit Assurance Engagement Process Design

CQMP Design Review				
Scope	<ul> <li>Assess the design and/or effectiveness of the program:</li> <li>Policies and procedures</li> <li>Training and communication of expectations</li> <li>Central office and Clinical Research Unit (CRU) roles and responsibilities</li> <li>Oversight and monitoring activities including CRU and central office reports and follow-up actions</li> </ul>			
Sample	25 protocols across 9 CRUs; multiple PI's			
Key Stakeholders	CQMP Management; Senior Leadership SOM; VPRI			



# Sample Audit Assurance Engagement CRU CQMP Implementation

	CQMP CRU Implementation Review
0	Review and assess CQMP implementation across a sample of CRUs in the following areas:
Scope	<ul> <li>Effectiveness of QM Reviews</li> <li>Adherence to Required Review Timelines</li> <li>CRU Roles and Responsibilities</li> <li>Training and Communication</li> </ul>
Sample	10-15 protocols within a single CRU; multiple Pl's
Key Stakeholders	CRU Leadership



## **Assurance Review Outputs**

- Highlight best practices
- Root cause analysis
- Identification of noncompliance
- Recommendations for operational improvements



## **Annual Audit Assurance Planning**



Collaborative process with input from various stakeholders



Recognition of industry trends and organizational changes



Agile and adaptive process that changes with emerging needs







QUESTIONS COMMENTS

