

# Neurosciences

## Clinical Research Unit

University of California, San Francisco  
Sandler Neurosciences Center, Suite 130  
675 Nelson Rising Lane, San Francisco, CA 94158



The Neurosciences Clinical Research Unit (NCRU) is an outpatient research unit located on the first floor of the Sandler Neurosciences Center building at the UCSF Mission Bay campus. It is designed to support human research including observational studies and clinical trials. Approximately 200 faculty and staff are currently using the facility to conduct more than 110 studies including clinical trials involving investigational products (infusions, injections and oral administration). Individuals currently using the unit include clinician-scientists from the Memory and Aging Center, the Multiple Sclerosis Research Group and Child Neurology. Together they welcome over 500 participants to the unit each month.

The NCRU's mission is to foster and support neuroscience research involving human subjects. We are particularly interested in studies leading to new therapies for neurological disease. Anyone wishing to use the NCRU will need to complete an online NCRU application, which will be reviewed by our research staff and medical executive committee ([NCRU Application v1.0](#)). The application is to ensure that we have appropriate resources in place to support your study, as well as proper documentation for regulatory and safety purposes.

Please contact Kristen Fox, RN for more information regarding the application process, services and pricing (415-502-7505 or [kristen.fox@ucsf.edu](mailto:kristen.fox@ucsf.edu))

### Leadership

Director	Adam Boxer, MD, PhD
NCRU Manager	Kristen Fox, RN, MS
Administrator	Ann Giron

### NCRU Facilities Include

- A spacious waiting room with reception
- 8 fully furnished exam rooms (3 outfitted with reclining infusion chairs)
- 6 consult rooms
- A nutrition prep station with snacks and beverages for research participants
- A phlebotomy room with two venipuncture chairs
- Medication and medical equipment storage facilities
- A conference room equipped with a state-of-the-art video conferencing system with seating for 40

## Services available

- Nursing
- Phlebotomy
- Medical assisting
- Sample processing
- Shipping of biological specimens

## Current Recharge Rates

- Exam/Consult Room: \$30 per hour
- Medical Assisting: \$56 per hour, per procedure
- Blood Draw: \$28 per draw
- Nursing Support: \$140 per hour, per procedure (see Nurse Manager for study-specific cost estimate)

*\* Rates will be re-evaluated annually and are subject to change according to actual use and the NCRU reserves the right to charge the established hourly rate for any room cancellation that occurs with less than 48 hours' notice.*

## Reservations

Rooms may be reserved in 30-minute blocks including set-up/clean-up.

## Sample Processing Lab Service

Advanced Specimen Handling	\$96.00	per procedural hour
Blood Tube Processing (1-2 tubes) (Includes basic sample handling)	\$72.00	per order
Blood Tube Processing (3-5 tubes) (includes basic sample handling)	\$77.00	per order
Blood Tube Processing (6+ tubes) (Includes basic sample handling)	\$134.00	per order

1. Rates are subject to change, and other surcharges may apply. Please enquire.
2. These rates do not include phlebotomy costs, for which a separate NCRU recharge exists.
3. Rates do not include shipping costs. Customers must pay for courier, Federal Express, etc. services directly.

## Advanced Specimen Handling

This category is for studies such as industry-sponsored clinical trials that use a central laboratory or repository outside of UCSF, such as a CRO, and provide complete study kits containing all consumable items (tubes, labels, packing materials, etc.) and do not require long term storage at UCSF. This service includes specimen handling, management, and shipping of sample collection kits with variable procedural and operational requirements.

## Basic Specimen Handling

Customized solutions packaging samples that do not require processing to be sent to clinical labs such as Quest or other commercial laboratories. This basic service includes labeling, entry into our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), tracking, short term storage, or same day shipping. This also covers sending out previously frozen/ processed specimens stored locally or by us.

## Blood Tube Processing

1-2, 3-5, or 6+ tubes. This service provides basic processing, short term storage, most consumables, data management. Examples: Serum: aliquoting and freezing; Plasma: spinning, separating from buffy coat and aliquoting.

Questions: Contact [argentina.lariolago@ucsf.edu](mailto:argentina.lariolago@ucsf.edu)



## The Neurosciences Imaging Center (NIC)

The Neurosciences Imaging Center ([www.sfnic.ucsf.edu](http://www.sfnic.ucsf.edu)) also calls the NCRU home. The NIC consists of an 11-room neurophysiology suite and two MRI scanners dedicated to brain imaging research. It is directed by Adam Gazzaley, MD, PhD.

Two 3T MRI scanners (a Siemens Prisma Fit and a Siemens Skyra) are available as a core research facility.

The 3T Siemens Prisma Fit MRI scanner has 64- and 20-channel head and neck coils, along with capabilities for simultaneous multi-slice (SMS) BOLD and diffusion imaging, 3D pCASL perfusion, SWI, and high-resolution anatomical imaging. It has hardware and software for presentation of visual and auditory stimuli, as well as the recording of button presses, joystick control, eye-movement, galvanic skin response, pulse oximetry, respiration, and EKG. This scanner is managed by Lara Stables, PhD. Individuals wishing to use this scanner should contact Lara Stables: [Lara.Stables@ucsf.edu](mailto:Lara.Stables@ucsf.edu).

Services	Internal Rates	External Rates
Peak Hours, 9:00am - 5:00pm	\$523	\$659
Off-Peak Hours, 5:00pm - 9:00pm and weekends	\$403	\$508

\*Includes indirect costs at 26%

The 3T Skyra MRI scanner serves as the Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroinflammation Imaging Program Scanner. This scanner is equipped with 20-channel and 64-channel head and neck coil arrays, and a 64-channel spinal cord array that enable continuous imaging from the cortex to the base of the spinal cord. This scanner is equipped with multiple transmit capabilities including ZOOM EPI, and may be used for contrast agent MRI. This facility is directed by Roland Henry, PhD and managed by Bill Stern, R.T. (MR). To use this facility for MRI scanning, please contact Roland Henry: [roland.henry@ucsf.edu](mailto:roland.henry@ucsf.edu).

Services	Internal Rates	External Rates
Base rate per scan	\$586	\$996
Nurse providing injections (add-on to base rate)	\$167	\$284
Clinical trial per procedure (add-on to base rate)	\$264	\$450

The Neurophysiology suite contains experimental rooms equipped for:

- 64-channel EEG, 128-channel EEG, TMS, tDCS (Adam Gazzaley)
- Autonomic testing (Howard Rosen)
- Eye-movement (Adam Boxer)
- Reach movement recordings (Philip Sabes)
- Retinal imaging (Ari Green)
- Speech and auditory monitoring (Christoph Schreiner/Edward Chang)
- Video observation (Kate Rankin)
- Virtual simulation room (Adam Gazzaley)



**Sandler Neurosciences Center**  
 675 Nelson Rising Lane San Francisco CA 94158  
 Phone: 415-502-7507



**Directions**

From San Francisco Downtown/Civic Center:  
 Take 8th Street south from Market Street (Hyde Street crosses Market and becomes 8th on the other side). Turn left on Brannan Street. Turn right on 7th Street. Turn left on 16th Street. Go one block and turn left on Owens Street. The entrance to the UCSF Mission Bay William J. Rutter Center parking garage is on your right.

From the South Bay or SFO:  
 Head north on US-101 N toward Exit 429B. Take the Vermont Street/433A exit. Turn left onto Vermont Street, then the second right onto 16th Street. Turn left onto Owens Street. The entrance to the UCSF Mission Bay William J. Rutter Center parking garage is on your right.

From the Peninsula (280)  
 Head north on I-280 N (following signs for San Francisco/Bay Bridge). Take Exit 56 for Mariposa Street and continue onto Owens Street, crossing Mariposa and then 16<sup>th</sup>. Continue on Owens until you see the entrance to the UCSF Mission Bay William J. Rutter Center parking garage on your right.

From the East Bay (Napa, Solano, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties) via Bay Bridge/80:  
 Travel west on I-80 W. After crossing the Bay Bridge, take exit 1C for 9th Street/Civic Center. Turn left on 8th Street at the bottom of the exit ramp and get in the left lane. Take the second left onto Brannan Street, then the first right onto 7th Street. Turn left on 16th Street, and left on Owens Street. The entrance to the William J. Rutter Center parking garage is on your right.

From the North Bay (Marin and Sonoma Counties) via the Golden Gate Bridge:  
 Travel south on US-101 S toward exit 439. After crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, drive east on US-101 (this section is now called the Presidio Parkway) toward downtown San Francisco. You will make a slight left onto Lombard Street, then a right on Van Ness Avenue to stay on US-101 South. Turn left onto Broadway Street and through the tunnel to remain on Broadway Street. Turn right onto The Embarcadero and continue as it veers to the right and becomes King Street. Turn left onto 3rd Street. Turn right onto 16th Street. Turn right onto Owens Street. The entrance to the UCSF Mission Bay William J. Rutter Center parking garage is located on your right.