Meet the
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT TEAM

Dr. Robert Rhyne completed medical school in 197 at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and Residency training at Duke University School of Medicine in 1981. He is board certified in Family Medicine and currently sees patients at UNM Family Health Clinics. He is the Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Family & Community Medicine.

Gina Cardinali, MSW has 20 years of research experience and is the Senior Program Manager of Research for the FCM. She is the principal point of contact for matters relating to the grant and contract life cycle and IRB issues faculty, staff, learners and leadership. She has a Letter of Academic Title and works with diverse research teams to develop project concepts, write grants and manuscripts, and implement studies. Gina oversees the Research Management Team.

Annamarie Madaras, MA is a Counselor and Community Based Research Specialist in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She works primarily on clinical research trials testing Motivational Interviewing and brief behavioral health interventions in primary care settings.

Carolyn Lara-Smith is a “working retiree” Contract and Grant Administrator in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She has been an employed since 1987, retired in 2013 and is now an “on-call” employee to assist the FCM Research Management team at peak grant submission times.
Christina Ripp, MA is a Community Based Research Specialist in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She has a background in mental health counseling, and since 2011 has focused on research projects testing Motivational Interviewing and brief interventions.

Crystal Krabbenhoft is a Program Specialist with the Department of Family & Community Medicine. She works on several projects that focus on access to care and health equity in New Mexico.

Danelle Callan, MA, is the project manager for Evidence Now Southwest Health Extension Rural Office: Translating Research Into Localities (HERO TRaILs), Choices Opciones CRC study, and DOH Academic Detailing contract. Danelle is also Staff Council President for a PCORI ambassador.

Deanna Wall is a Sr. Program Manager for the College of Population Health and manages operations. The primary goal of the College of Population Health is to assure that all New Mexicans live healthy lives.

Deb Driggers is a Family and Community Medicine accountant. She manages funds for sponsored projects, generates fiscal reports, and helps to ensure adherence to all internal and external fiscal policies.
Debbie Benninghoff is the Accountant for the College of Population Health. Her primary responsibilities include fiscal management and post award grant management for the COPH.

Denise Ruybal is a Program Coordinator for the Research Management Team. She enjoys interacting with the diverse staff at the UNM and with FCM staff on various advisory committees. She holds AAS and ASG degrees in Computer Sciences and Business Administrations, and plans to continue her education at the University of New Mexico.

Jennifer Bryant, MS, is a member of the Biostatistics and Epidemiology program. Her responsibilities include statistical consultation, database creation and management and data analysis.

Jennifer Hettema, PhD is an Associate Research Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She is an active participant in the Research Management Team and conducts clinical research focused on brief behavioral health interventions in medical settings.

Kara McKinney is a Contract and Grant Administrator with the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She assists research teams with proposal submissions and IRB applications.

Maria Ward, BA is the program coordinator for the Area Health Education Center. She is the principal point of representation and liaison with all AHEC center directors on operational matters, and provides day-to-day technical/professional guidance and leadership as appropriate to the needs of the grant.
Stephanie Cockrell, MSW is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and Clinical Research Manager in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She primarily works on clinical trials evaluating brief motivational interviewing interventions in primary care. She is also involved in designing and facilitating motivational interviewing workshops for various UNM health profession students and residents.

Virginia Chavez is a Contract and Grant Administrator in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. She provides institutional support for sponsored funded projects.