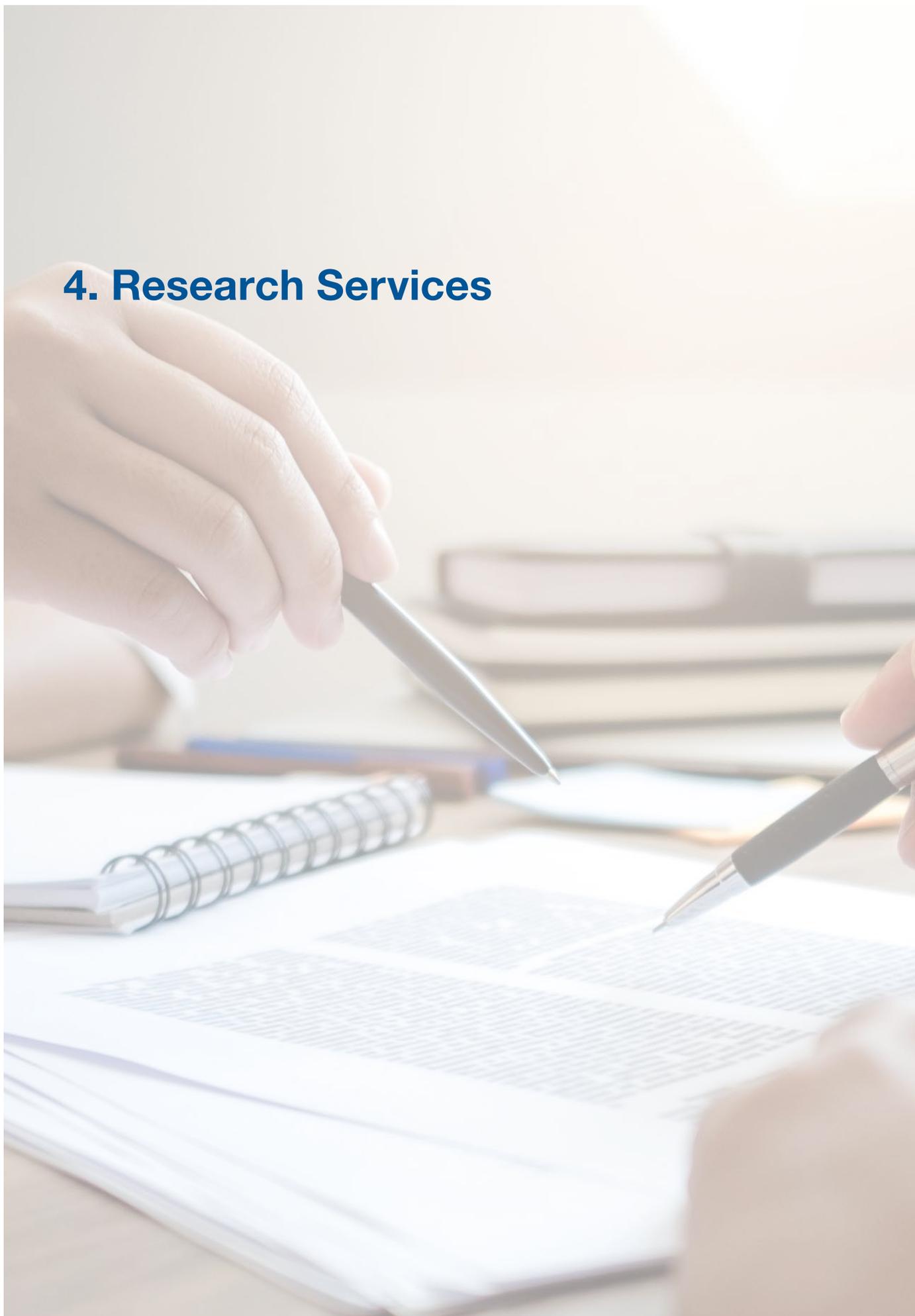


4. Research Services



4.1 Clinical Trial Unit EOC

Prof. Alessandro Ceschi, MD, MSc

CTU-EOC Director

The mission of CTU-EOC is to promote and increase clinical research within EOC by offering high quality services for the implementation and conduction of clinical trials in all fields of medicine ensuring the application of national and international regulatory requirements.

The activity of the CTU-EOC has increased since its inception in 2012, thanks to the consolidation of internal collaborations with the EOC Institutes and Departments and the network with the Local Research Units (LRUs), as well as external collaborations, and thanks to the strengthening of some services such as biostatistics, data management, data science, and proof reading.

Since 2020, the CTU-EOC is a full member of the Swiss Clinical Trial Organization (SCTO), which is a not-for-profit Organization acting as the central cooperation platform for patient-oriented clinical research in Switzerland, and includes the CTUs of the University hospitals and cantonal hospital St. Gallen.

During 2021, the CTU-EOC took in charge 51 projects performing different activities including the coordination of multicenter trials. The most requested service was the development of databases, electronic case report forms (eCRFs), followed by the monitoring and the submission to Regulatory Authorities. In 2021, an increase in projects dealing with health-related data and biological samples occurred (21 out of 51), while projects on drugs and medical devices decreased slightly.

The introduction in 2021 of the general consent coupled with the creation in 2019 of the EOC Biobank promoted the initiation of research projects on biological data and samples (non clinical studies).

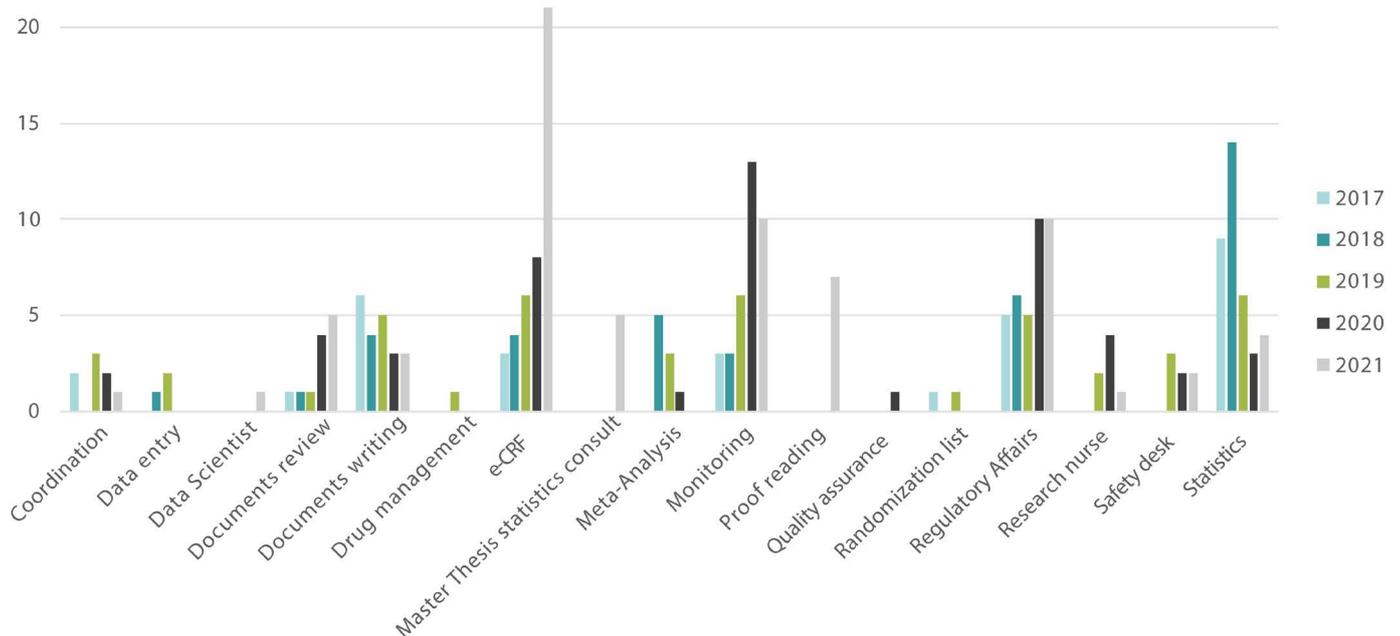


Figure 1: Services provided by the CTU-EOC in the last 5 years

Further to provide the whole range of competences required to support a clinical study, CTU-EOC also provides individual support to

students, particularly of the USI Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, who have to perform their master or doctorate thesis.

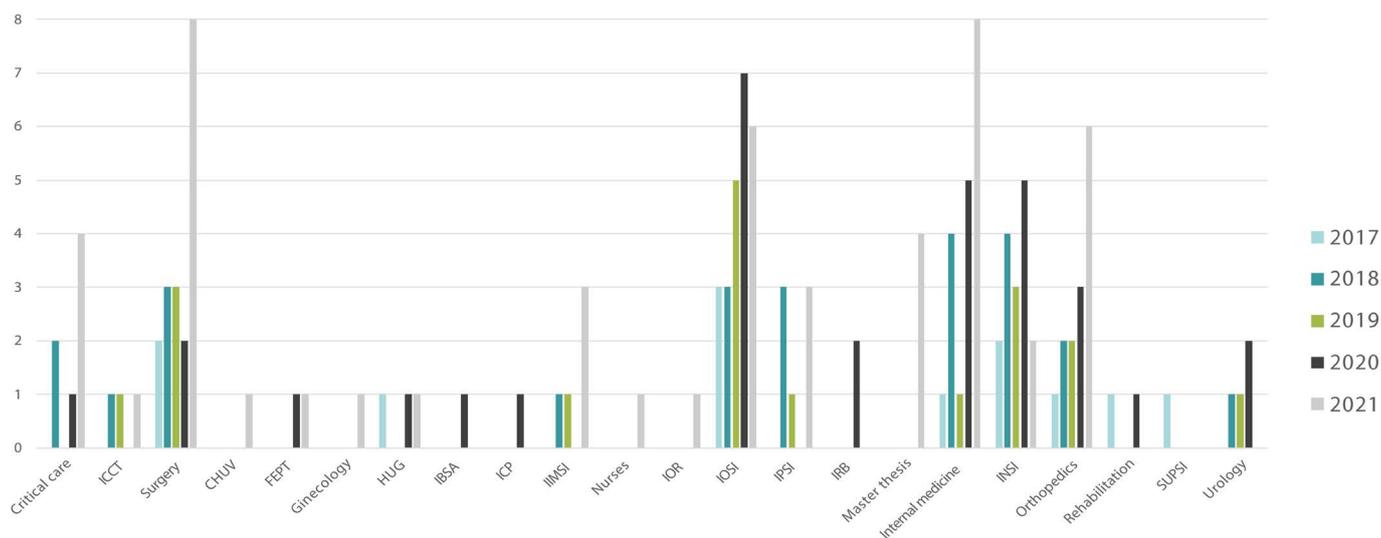


Figure 2: Collaborations of the CTU-EOC in the last 5 years

Abbreviations not mentioned in the text: CHUV: Centre hospitalier universitaire Vaudois; IBSA: Institut Biochimique SA; ICCT: Istituto Cardiocentro Ticino; ICP: Istituto Cantonale di Patologia; IIMSI: Istituto Imaging della Svizzera Italiana; IOSI: Istituto Oncologico della Svizzera Italiana; IPSI: Istituto Pediatrico della Svizzera Italiana; INSI: Istituto di Neuroscienze Cliniche della Svizzera Italiana

In 2021, some collaborations with researchers outside EOC also started, e.g. with Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), Fondazione Epatocentro Ticino (FEPT), Istituto di ricerca in Biomedicina (IRB), Institute of Oncology Research (IOR), and Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI).

Education

Despite the limitations due to COVID-19, CTU-EOC was able to maintain the educational program in clinical research with the second

highest number of participants ever recorded. CTU lectures consisting in online training sessions on current specific research topics were introduced. The courses given within the PhD programs of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences at USI are also fully integrated into the CTU-EOC educational program and are offered in English in the spring session and in Italian in the fall session. CTU-EOC actively contributes to the SCTO educational platform, ensuring a constant exchange and update in the field at the national level.

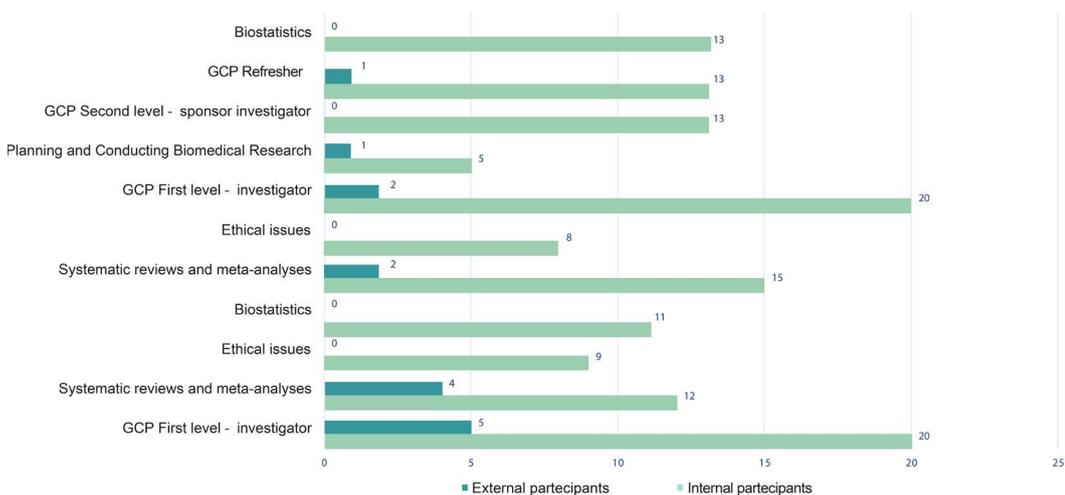


Figure 3: Courses organized by the CTU-EOC in 2021

Events

CTU-EOC, in collaboration with the AFRI EOC and the USI Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, organized the 10th Research Day in Human Medicine of Southern Switzerland, with special anniversary keynote lectures and a press conference on the launch of the EOC-USI Research Fund. The event was also part of the 25 years celebration of

the University. The participation has constantly increased over the years, both in numbers of abstracts submitted and in number of attendees (321 in 2021).

More information are available at the following link: www.ctueoc.ch/giornata-della-ricerca/

>> The list of publications of CTU-EOC is available on the EOC website at the following [link](#).

