Recognizing the need for an innovative way to connect people with research opportunities, Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Director Steven Reis, MD, started the CTSI Research Participant Registry at Pitt in 2008, with just 4,200 participants and 75 studies using the service during its first year. The research registry is a list of individuals who volunteer to provide information about themselves and agree to be contacted about local research opportunities.

Building on the success of the original registry, the updated Pitt+Me Registry launched in 2016 as an innovative multimedia platform for study recruitment and participant engagement. Pitt+Me is now considered one of the largest registries of its kind with almost 250,000 adult and pediatric participants. Over the years, the registry has assisted with more than 1,220 research studies and made over 171,000 participant referrals to study teams.