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Careers in Clinical Research

I am very excited to be the guest editor for our special October issue of the *Monitor* on Careers in Clinical Research. With the help of the editorial staff of the *Monitor* we have compiled a very interesting array of articles for our readers. The idea of focusing on career pathways began last year when I began writing an ongoing column on careers in our industry. This issue is an expansion of that focus based on feedback of ACRP members who cite career issues at the top of their list of interests.

As you know, this is an exciting time to be in the field of clinical research and the opportunities are many and expanding every day. The following statistics demonstrate the magnitude of the pharmaceutical industry.

- PhRMA's biotechnology and pharmaceutical research member companies invested a record \$38.8 billion in research and development on medicines in 2004 (up from \$34.5 billion in 2003)
- PhRMA member companies spent an estimated \$30.6 billion in R&D within the United States, and an estimated \$8.2 billion abroad in 2004.

Challenges Facing the Industry

However, the challenges facing the industry must not be glossed over, including the following:

- Growing pipelines but short-term growth constraints
- Rising costs and increasing price sensitivity
- Tightening regulatory scrutiny
- Accelerating competition
- Capacity shortages and rising turnover rates
- Staffing challenges

(Source: CenterWatch, 2003)

What the Future Holds

The future of clinical research will encompass the following:

- Increasing public awareness of clinical research
- Increasing regulatory oversight
- Expanding awareness of certification
- Emphasis on participant recruitment
- Budgets will be dictated by sponsors
- Companies will not have the resources to train and develop individuals with less experience
- More outsourcing as companies focus on core business strengths
- Public demand to reduce drug prices will lead to further cost cutting

Trends Today

The following trends are currently shaping the clinical research landscape:

- The clinical research team is expanding to include patient recruitment organizations, tech support, compliance, etc.
- Increasing avenues of growth with lots opportunities for consultants and entrepreneurs
- Job descriptions becoming more narrowly defined as the complexity of research increases
- Researchers with extensive industry experience will be extremely sought after, in short supply and, therefore, well compensated
- More difficult for inexperienced healthcare professionals to get into clinical research
- Increased need for training and certification as the industry becomes more competitive
- CRAs are becoming specialists in order to increase efficiencies
- Demand is increasing for generalists with experience
- Companies fight to hold onto top talent
- CROs are competing with their own sponsor companies for talent

The fastest growing positions including the following:

Project Management

- Business Development
- Regulatory Affairs
- Data Management
- CRAs
- Project Managers

Study Conduct

- Clinical Scientists
- CRCs
- Project Managers
- Business Development
- Data Management

(Source: CenterWatch, 2003)

Shifts in the Global Balance

Europe

Some 400,000 European science and technology graduates now live in the United States, and thousands more leave Europe each year. A recent survey conducted by the European Commission found that only 13 percent of European science professionals working abroad currently intend to return home.

(Source: J. Chu, "How to Plug Europe's Brain Drain," Time Magazine, 14 January 2004)

India

- Large demand-supply gap for trained clinical research professionals.
- Now an increased awareness of the demand among the science, pharmacy, and medical education professionals who are available in plenty and are now willing to take up a career in clinical research.
- Many Indian public and private institutes are offering formal short-term and diploma courses in clinical research.
- Over the next 2–5 years, India will bridge the demand-supply gap for trained manpower in clinical research.

(Source: Umakanta S. Clinical Trials in India: Monitoring Issues, ACRP Monitor, September 2004)

This special October issue features many industry professionals offering their expertise in their field. As you can see this is a issue packed with valuable information that will appeal to our entire readership. I know that each of you will benefit from reading this issue, and I want to extend a warm thank you to all our contributing authors.

ACRP Career Center

The ACRP Career Center introduces job seekers in the field of clinical research to hundreds of career opportunities at top companies.

Advertisers include Johnson & Johnson, Abbott Labs, Medical College of Wisconsin, Allergan, Merck, Boston Scientific, ICOS Corp., Bausch & Lomb, Eli Lilly, and Westat.

Sample Job Titles Posted Manager of Clinical Research Programs, Clinical Research Associate, Principal Trainer-Clinical Quality and Training, VP-Endocrinology/Cardiology, Clinical Research Coordinator, Associate Medical Director, Senior Medical Writer, and more.

ACRP Members may register a new account *free of charge* to:

- ▶ Create and manage up to three (3) resumes or CVs and cover letters;
- ▶ Apply to job listings quickly and easily;
- ▶ Register a personal ACRP Job Agent to receive job alert notifications; and
- ▶ Manage your privacy with each resume submission using our privacy options. Account registrations and resumes are confidential and controlled by the job seeker.

Employers can reach our active online community by listing open positions quickly and easily. Registration is free and takes just minutes to complete online. Job postings run for 45 days for a fee of \$200 each and all new listings are reviewed and posted within 24 hours. Candidates can submit their online application directly to a designated e-mail address.

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