NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President, Christina Brennan, MD, MBA

Looking Ahead to a Great Year ...

Dear Fellow NY Metropolitan Chapter Members,

Hope you are all doing well and that your 2017 is off to a great start!

I am humbled by the privilege which you our members bestowed upon me in having allowed me to serve as the President of the NY Metropolitan Chapter of ACRP from 2017-2018. I am honored and proud to have the opportunity to lead our chapter. The NY Metropolitan Chapter has one of the largest total members of the national chapters for ACRP. Not only do we have nearly 300 members, we also have been awarded the Chapter Excellence Award in Education and Training more than once! So thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve on such a dedicated and experienced board. I joined the chapter in 2005 and I have enjoyed meeting many of you throughout the years at our chapter events. Our chapter and ACRP global has been an important part of my professional career the last 12 years. I am now looking forward to serving the chapter in this capacity as your president. I am focused on building upon the chapter’s continued success, working together with you our members.

My work is facilitated by the incredible help of all our board members and their committees. I am inspired by their commitment to the board and our chapter. I therefore extend my appreciation to each and every one of these individuals who volunteer their time to make the continued operations of our chapter seem seamless. Your chapter board has been hard at work preparing for another great year of chapter events. We hope to see you at many of our events and hopefully some newcomers too. If you have new ideas we are always willing to hear them, please reach out and share. We are always looking for new ways to better serve our members and improve our chapter.

Hope to see you all soon, in the meantime, my best wishes for a fruitful academic year.

Kind Regards,

Christina

Thank you to my 2017 Board of the NY Metropolitan Chapter of ACRP

Immediate Past President: Erika Stevens, MA, Past Presidents Advisory Committee Chair: Erika Stevens, MA, Secretary: Joyce Ann Moran, CCRC, Treasurer: Sumathy Sundarabanbu, PhD, Parliamentarian: George Gasparis Bylaws Committee Chair: George Gasparis, Communications Committee Chair: Janet Ellen Holwell, CCRC, CCRA, FACRP, TIACR, Education & Programs Committee Chair: Halley Rogers, MPH, CCRC, Marketing Chair: Gabrielle Gaspard, MPH, CCRC, Membership & Retention Committee Chair: Jun Avelino Loquere RN, MD, CCRC, CCRP, Nominations Committee Chair: Carlotta Rodriguez, MS, CIP, CHRC, Member-at-Large: Gina Gualtiere, Member-at-Large: Raynelle Mensah, Member-at-Large: Alison Randall, MPH, CCRC
EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Happy New Year from the Education Committee! I hope you had a restful holiday because we have a full year of events for you to look forward to. The good news is that the topics should look familiar because we planned our year around what you asked for in our end of year survey and through the evaluation forms we collect at each event. It is important to us that we are serving your needs and so if there is ever a topic that is particularly relevant to your current or future role feel free to send our chapter an email.

Our first in-person educational program of the year is planned for the evening of March 8th at NYU Medical Center. The speaker, Dr. David Morin, is an investigator with 25+ years of experience in clinical research. His presentation will focus on the relationship between protocol complexity and productivity in an effort to find the right workload balance. This will be relevant not only to research professionals at the site level who run the trials, but to sponsors and CROs as well to assess their own project management capacity and site feasibility.

Our second educational event in May 2017 will cover the intricate but important process of SOP development. Our presenter, Lysa Triantafillou, will shed some insight on when and why you need them as well as how to design, update, maintain and implement SOPs.

In the fall, you can look forward to our next webinar series on "Wearables and Big Data: The New Gold Standard for Clinical Trials." As the use of wearables becomes more common in the healthcare and research setting, it is important to know the benefits and challenges that may arise with this new technology.

Finally, we hope to see you later this year at our 9th annual clinical research symposium. Our full day event will take a more holistic look at "Translational Medicine - a walk through the various research phases and complexities." Each phase of research presents its only set of challenges for each functional area. Experts in the field will walk us through how each step differs as well as some of the skills, knowledge, and strategies that would be valuable to thrive in each environment.

CALL FOR AUTHORS

There is a request for articles for the ACRP journal, "Clinical Researcher". In particular, the August issue will focus on study sites.

- If you are a PI, study coordinator or other site personnel who is interested in developing an article, or
- If you are in a position to provide the sponsor or CRO perspective in dealing with sites

Please contact us at nymetroacrp@gmail.com

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS
Measuring the Impact of Complexity on Productivity

Location: 
Alumni Hall B, 1st floor 
NYU Langone Medical Center 
550 First Ave. 
New York, NY 10016

Speaker: 
David Morin, MD, RPH, FACP, CPI 
Director of Clinical Research 
Holston Medical Group 
Kingsport, TN

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 
6:30—8:30 pm 
6:30-7:00 pm  Registration & Networking 
7:00-8:15 pm  Educational Presentation 
8:15-8:30 pm  Q & A

Program Description: It should come as no surprise that Protocol complexity is increasing. Complexity increases workload and can negatively impact trial performance. So what can we as sites and sponsors do about this? Please join us as we learn from Dr. David Morin about how to measure and manage protocol complexity to maximize productivity and understand our own limits as research teams.

Event Objectives:
> Define the difference between workload and productivity.
> Discuss how baseline workload may affect productivity.
> Explore the potential applications of this method toward accepting and allocating new studies, manage existing CRC workload, determine adequate resources, and quality assurance.

Target Audience: All clinical research professionals. Level: Intermediate

Registration: This event is FREE for NY Metropolitan Chapter members and employees of NYU Langone Medical Center (with valid ID at registration), and $25 for non-chapter members. Register at Eventbrite. No refunds unless the chapter cancels the event.

Contact Hours: 1.5 Contact hours and CMEs have been applied for through ACRP. Contact hours can be purchased on the NY Metro Chapter website. Contact hours are complimentary for Chapter Members, $15 for ACRP members and $30 for non members. After signing in at the registration desk and attending the program, log on to ACRP website between 1-30 days following the event, click “ACRP Learning Portal” to complete the evaluation and receive the online certificate. Membership is not required for online registration/application of contact hours.

Stay tuned to our Chapter website at Association of Clinical Research Professionals – New York Metropolitan Chapter or send us an email at nymetasac-pd@gmail.com.
Improving Quality and Compliance through Effective SOP Development

Location: Weill Cornell Auditorium
1300 York Ave (69th St. and York Ave)
C Building, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10065

Speaker: Lysa Triantafillou
Director, Quality Management Office
Social and Scientific systems, Inc

Tuesday, May 9, 2017
6:30—8:30 pm
6:30-7:00 pm Registration & Networking
7:00-8:15 pm Educational Presentation
8:15-8:30 pm Q & A

Program Description: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are an integral part of the business of conducting clinical trials. Whether you love them, hate them, create them, update them, or have never heard of them, you will stand to benefit from our expert speaker, Lysa Triantafillou, in this mini-workshop on SOP development.

Event Objectives:
- Identify and discuss the regulatory and quality management rationale for SOPs and other procedural documents.
- Distinguish the basic steps for outlining and writing SOPs; to employ these steps to develop SOPs that ensure tasks are performed in a manner that is efficient and repeatable, and that meets all applicable regulatory and industry standards.
- Recognize the importance of functional area and stakeholder input and review to prevent overlaps, contradictions, and disconnects within and across procedures and documentation.

Target Audience: All clinical research professionals. Level: Intermediate

Registration: This event is FREE for NY Metropolitan Chapter members and employees of Weill Cornell Medical Center and Weill Cornell CTSC members (with valid ID at registration), and $25 for non-chapter members. Register at Eventbrite. No refunds unless the chapter cancels the event.

Contact Hours: 1.5 Contact hours and CMEs have been applied for through ACRP. Contact hours can be purchased on the NY Metro Chapter website. Contact hours are complimentary for Chapter Members, $15 for ACRP members and $30 for non-members. To receive contact hours: After signing in at the registration desk and attending the program, log on to ACRP website between 1-30 days following the event, click “ACRP Learning Portal” to complete the evaluation and receive the online certificate. Membership is not required for online registration/application of contact hours.

Stay tuned to our Chapter website at Association of Clinical Research Professionals - New York Metropolitan Chapter or send us an email at nymetrosr@gmail.com.
Christina Brennan, MD, MBA

For the latest edition of our newsletter, we thought this would be a great opportunity for our readers to meet Christina Brennan, MD, MBA who, in addition to being the Vice President of Clinical Research for the Northwell Health System, is now the President for the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the ACRP.

Dr Brennan is a physician who has devoted her career to clinical research. She is dedicated and committed to the advancement of science and medicine. She has authored chapters in textbooks, co-authored manuscripts and abstracts, and presented at numerous meetings. Christina is the recipient of the 2015 and 2016 Irish America Healthcare and Life Sciences 50 award. She lives on Long Island, with her husband, Paul who is a lieutenant in the NYPD, and their twin daughters, Erin and Kelly.

Dr Brennan, for those who do not know you, can you tell our readers about yourself and how you became involved with ACRP.

I started out my research career as a coordinator at Lenox Hill Hospital in 2000. I decided to get certified in 2005 and at that time, I joined both ACRP global and our local NY Metropolitan Chapter. I loved going to all the events and often offered up Lenox Hill as host. Throughout the last 11+ years, I have enjoyed networking with the members and more recently the incredible board who work so hard to provide all the great things our chapter offers.

As a wife and mother of twins who just obtained your MBA, as well as being Vice President of Clinical Research for the Northwell Health System and New York Chapter President of the ACRP, how do you manage to find a work-life balance?

In today's busy world, it certainly is challenging to find a work-life balance. This is still an evolving concept in some companies. It is simply that you must find your balance.

Most families find that both parents have to work, so staying at home is not really an option. Although, I don’t think that would be for me even if given that choice. I love the work I do and I always give it my all, but I love being with the family too. I make sure to take
advantage of the time that my twin 13 year old girls are off from school. With all of our hectic schedules we also try and set aside at least twice a week to eat together as a family. I work hard but I take the time for vacations too. I am not the person who never takes a personal day off, I use my time accrued. You will be more productive if you take a day to unwind and reenergize. There is no one size fits all and people do what works for them and their families. You may enjoy spending time at work and there is no reason to feel guilty about that as long as you feel happy and balanced.

When you were Director of Clinical Research, one of your many accomplishments that I am personally thankful for is uniting the 6 cardiology research departments in the Northwell Health System to work as one team. What was your goal? And why do you think it was so successful?

The healthcare system in the US has been rapidly evolving over the past few years as hospitals continue to consolidate under large health systems, nationwide. Traditionally, clinical research trials have selected individual hospitals as standalone clinical sites, but the development of healthcare systems with centralized clinical research administrations is changing that model. Now, health systems are able to incorporate multiple hospitals within their network under a single contract, budget, product sales agreement, consent, and institutional review board. This allows for increased efficiency in onboarding hospitals, more standardized training, and improved site enrollment. There is great potential for strong study performance by leveraging the power of multiple hospitals under a single health system. As clinical studies become more selective in the number of sites they choose, utilizing a health system allows for more of their hospitals to participate. The enrollment potential will be higher with the combined volumes, and for patients there will be greater availability of participating locations and physicians.

In 2013, realizing the potential for the opportunities for a paradigm shift in the way research was conducted in the Northwell Health System, we implemented participating in research as a single entity with 1 IRB, 1 contract, 1 budget and 1 team. My goal was to create the first research service line in the department of cardiology. The success started with support and buy in from senior leadership. When you have support from the top down, that's where it starts. Then we work together as a team and people felt that they were making a difference and enjoyed the work. We are entering our 4th year of this model and things are still going strong. We have been leaders in over a dozen trials and our industry sponsored partners favor the single entity approach.

As your tenure as President of the ACRP begins, what are some things members can expect during this period?

Memberships are the lifeblood of our chapter. I would like to see an increase in memberships in 2017. I would also like to see more of a presence from our NY hospitals and industry partners at our events, including my own Northwell Health. We need to be there and engaged as event sponsors and be a part of the research community. I would encourage the same from our neighboring institutions. I plan on visiting as many of our local hospitals that I can during my time as president. Nothing beats a face to face interaction, a personal touch.

Thank you for your time, Dr Brennan. And good luck!
FREE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING WEBINARS

5 Reports Your Clinical Research Site Should Be Running  
March 16, 2017 at 1:00 pm EST  
Presented by Forte Research Systems

Patient Engagement and Remote Research - What We Know Now  
March 23, 2017 at 11:00 am EST  
Presented by Business Review Webinars

PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

Examining the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant  
Presented by Forte Research Systems

How to Effectively and Compliantly Advertise Clinical Trials to Potential Participants  
Presented by Forte Research Systems

Return of Individual Results: CLIA and HIPAA Considerations  
Presented by Kinetiq

ARTICLES

Six Tips for Submitting a Research Study for Expedited Review  
Presented by Kinetiq

How to Effectively Advertise Your Clinical Trials to Potential Participants  
Presented by Forte Research Systems

4 Essential Skills for the Ideal Clinical Trial Project Manager  
Presented by Forte Research Systems

The New York Metropolitan Chapter of ACRP does not endorse nor profit from these advertisements or programs, but rather are providing a notification to its community for their own interest as part of its continuing initiative to promote education and opportunities in research.

to our new and returning chapter members!

We currently have 273 active members to date with 17 new and returning members joining us in the last quarter. We would like to give a warm welcome to:

Kydanis Clase; Maria Farberov; Natalie Rajcooar; Jeanellen Fullam; Cliff Miras; Anna Araiza; Festa Berisha-Mati; Valerie Harkins; Laura Jane Pehrson; Raynelle Mensah; Sapna Kapoor; Corinne Desombre; Donna Mildvan; Heather Williams; Jose Martinez; Jodi Bellantoni and Linda Coleman.
For membership questions, email Jun Loquere at al2061@cumc.columbia.edu. You can also log on to www.acrpnet.org for ACRP and chapter membership applications.

WANT TO POST SOMETHING IN OUR NEWSLETTER OR JOB BOARD?

For information on placing advertisements in the quarterly newsletter or posting positions on the monthly Job Board, click HERE. You can also send your comments or suggestions to jholwell@aol.com.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Marketing Committee would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the symposium exhibitors for supporting the event and engaging with our attendees. They include: Advanced Clinical, Aerotek, BRANY, Greenphire, and NYUMC. We also appreciated the donations from our in-kind sponsors CISCRP and CenterWatch.

Corporations, recruiters, or institutions interested in sponsorship of any of our events should contact Gabi Gaspard at gabig382@yahoo.com. We are currently seeking sponsorship for our upcoming 2017 events and have several levels of corporate sponsorship available.

The Marketing Committee is always looking for volunteers. Any members interested in becoming more involved in the chapter should also contact Gabi.