President's Message - Janet Ellen Holwell, CCRC, CCRA

I am pleased to share that we have had a very successful autumn. Our full day symposium in September was a great success. We received many positive comments and really enjoyed the Yale Club venue. Food was fantastic and sessions on "Clinical Research in the Electronic Age" were riveting. I enjoyed meeting and seeing so many of you and welcomed the new faces in our group. We received positive feedback from our vendors that many of you visited. I’d like to formally extend thanks to all of our board members who worked on this event, most particularly Co-Chairs of Education, Erika Stevens and Halley Rogers, supported by their very active committee. Many hours were spent pulling together this multi-speaker event and coordinating all of the details. Kudos to the entire team!

Our last educational event and general meeting for 2011 occurred on November 3 at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, Long Island. It was our first event in Long Island, but it will not be the last. We had a very nice turnout, great speakers addressing "What You Don’t Know About Investigational Drugs," and more food than we could eat! Thanks to Ann Marie Martin and Kim Byrnes, we were able to secure the beautiful conference room at Winthrop. It was a lovely evening. At the general meeting, we officially announced our elected board for 2012-2013. A first-time attendee at our chapter meetings, Marilynn Orlando, was the lucky winner of the door prize - 2 books: 'Official Good Clinical Practice Reference Guide' and 'Frequently Asked Questions and Other Guidance from the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP).’ Congratulations, Marilynn!

Some other congratulations are in order...to our Member-at-Large, Diana Wong, on the birth of her son, Gianni W. Mele. He is a beautiful baby! Also, congratulations to chapter member, Irene Neaman who presented a poster at the 2011 ACRP Global Conference in Seattle entitled, “Left Out in the Cold? Review of Sample Storage Documentation.” She has submitted a session for the 2012 conference as well.

We are proud of our members’ accomplishments. If you have had recognition or special accomplishments, please drop us a note. We would love to share your successes amongst our membership.

The final event for 2011, our 6th Annual Holiday Networking Party is always the highlight of the year. Please be sure to register for this exciting social gathering on Thursday, December 1st from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our space is limited and early bird registration is through November 15th. The venue is Salmon River Restaurant in New York City (3 East 40th Street). There will be plenty to eat, open bar, door prizes and fun activities - all included in the price of your admission. This is our most anticipated event and it is open to all. The venue is conveniently located adjacent to the Courtyard Marriott for folks who might be traveling from out of town. Don’t miss it!

Your board will be busy planning events for 2012 and our strategy moving forward. Members of the outgoing and incoming board will meet in November, as we have traditionally done each year, and consider programs and topics suggested by you, our valuable members. Keep your ideas for educational sessions as well as social networking coming. You can always send me your ideas via e-mail at janet.e.holwell@pfizer.com.

We are in need of more volunteers on several committees and would welcome
We would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to all who attended our educational programs in 2011. Your participation and commitment helps to make our chapter's educational programs such a success.

We wrapped up 2011 with a full-day educational symposium in September on "Clinical Research in the Electronic Age." The event, held at the Yale Club in NYC, featured an array of speakers from various disciplines that are affected by the clinical research's increased reliance on electronic mediums. Our final event this year in November was also our first event in Long Island. On November 3rd, we hosted an event titled "What you don't know about Investigational Drugs?" at Winthrop University Hospital. The attendance was great and the speakers provided valuable insight into best practices for running a drug study.

With 2011 almost behind us, we are preparing for an exciting agenda in 2012. Our first event titled "Central verses Local IRB's" will take place on Thursday, March 1st, 2011. Many sites, sponsors, and federal agencies have promoted the trend of outsourcing regulatory review responsibilities, so we have invited experts in the field to help us better understand the trend and whether it may be a good solution for your site or company.

Our second event in 2012 will be held on May 2nd and will feature a presentation on the "Costs of Clinical Research," with careful consideration given to the hidden costs of research and what the priorities are for the site, sponsor, CRO, PI, and research subjects.

We always welcome input from our chapter members on event topics and/or speakers, and so if you have ideas that you would like to share for future educational programs please feel free to email Halley Rogers at rogersh0217@gmail.com.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you all at our events next year!

Congratulations to our Door Prize Winners

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Friday, September 16, 2011 for our 2011 Fall Symposium: Clinical Research in the Electronic Age. Not only were attendees able to discuss the complex challenges faced due to our increased reliance on electronic mediums, but also had the chance to win some amazing door prizes as well.

Here are our lucky winners:

- $100 Visa Gift Card from MDLogix - Vyta Sarapiniene and Stephanie Augustine
This summer the Marketing Committee worked closely with other committee members to help contact and confirm the exhibitors for the Fall Symposium on September 16th. We were able to meet our goal of bringing together a diverse group of companies that reflected the technology needs of different segments in clinical research.

The Committee has also been busy helping out with the holiday party. Committee member, Maddalena Mastrogiacomo, spent many hours checking into different locations for our 8th Annual Holiday Networking Party. What better location than Salmon River, close to Bryant Park (6th Avenue between 40th and 42nd Sts). What better way to end the evening than to stroll over to watch the ice skaters or stroll around the holiday shops until they close at 10PM. Great job, Maddalena!

The Committee is starting to put together their plans to able to fulfill the needs of all the Chapter events planned for 2012. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the different tasks that support the educational and networking events. The Spring Networking event is planned for June 7th and much work needs to be done for this, as well as, for the Fall Symposium and our other educational events.
Contact Roseann Affinito at RAffinito@frontagelab.com for more information. Have a great holiday season and we hope to see new faces in the Marketing Committee come January.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is always looking for interested members to become more involved. The committee is responsible for sending out all chapter communications, including the monthly job boards and quarterly newsletters.

Any comments or suggestions regarding our chapter newsletters and job board are also appreciated. Send questions and comments to Vanessa LaRoche at vl2126@columbia.edu.

Membership & Retention Committee

Welcome to our new and renewing Chapter Members:

- Lihi Brock
- Vicky Brunk
- Susan Chace
- Qi Cheng
- Nancy Cohen
- Ricardo Costa
- Olufunke Davies
- Christine Demers
- Barbara Gladson
- Cynthia Hahn
- Brandy Haydel
- Rita Hoard
- Evelyn Huang
- Vikram Katragadda
- Mark Latour
- Jie Li
- Georgia Mitchell
- Dinah Neri
- Marilyn Orlando
- Sandra Petersen
- Charlotte Phillips
- Tammy Reece
- Hegulka Scheiman
- Serena Schmitz
- Nicholas Shuman
- William Slavik
- Rodriq Stubbs
- Joey Sinanan
- M. Sophy Yohannan
- Maria Tarallo
- Bernardo Vargas
- Valerie Wilkins
- Diana Wong

Please visit our chapter website at www.acrpnet.org/nymetro for more information of our coming events and for membership questions email Jun Loquere at al2061@columbia.edu.
Corporations, recruiters, or institutions interested in sponsorship of any of our 2012 events, or advertising open positions on the job board should contact Roseann Affinito at RAffinito@frontagelab.com. We have several available levels of corporate sponsorship.