

Recommendations for Identifying and Developing New Investigators

Medical schools, industry sponsors, clinical research organization (CROs), and physicians themselves should use active measures to identify, initiate, and train site investigators. Likewise, sponsors and CROs should provide structured opportunities for these new investigators to become involved in their clinical studies.

WHEN TASKED WITH THE INITIATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INVESTIGATORS, STAKEHOLDERS SHOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PATHWAYS:

ACADEMIC MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Many productive site investigators are introduced to clinical research during medical school or residency training. **Medical schools and training institutes** can foster future investigators and site staff by adopting some or all of the following measures:

- Create training programs that focus specifically on clinical research design and conduct (including certification and master's degree programs)
- Offer research training fellowships with specific experiences in site-based research activities
- Host lecture series/Grand Rounds on clinical research topics
- Formalize apprenticeship training programs working under experienced site investigators
- Include physician training in budget and contract negotiations for site-based research activities
- Incentivize and reward academic physicians for participating as site investigators for clinical trials
- Develop training programs for community/private-practice sites, as well as for sites affiliated with academic medical centers

ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsor, CROs, Health Systems/Private Practices, Trade Associations, and Professional Societies should continue and extend existing efforts to initiate and encourage new investigators by:

- Forging new relationships and partnerships with site investigators
- Encouraging use of online training and educational curricula
- Exploring potential for working with physicians who work with unique, diverse patient populations, including members of under-served communities
- Providing new investigators opportunities for clinical trial experiences
- Avoiding oversaturation of sites with repeated requests to participate in trials
- Implementing "reward for quality" programs

PHYSICIAN APPRENTICESHIP/ DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Professional societies** and **trade organizations** should sponsor continuing education sponsor programs in site-based research activities
- **Research site staff** should be encouraged to attend conferences hosted by sponsors, CROs, industry, and/or professional and trade organizations focused on clinical research
- Provide validated certificate programs focused on Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training

Physicians interested in becoming site investigators can engage in observational or participatory training outside of medical school. Opportunities include:

- Serving as a clinical trial sub-investigator
- Shadowing experienced Investigators
- Participating on an institutional review board (IRB)