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Intensive Onboarding Program Delivers Competent Clinical Research Associates in 8 Weeks

Pilot Program Results in Successful CRA Onboarding and Retention

Washington, DC – The Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) today announces availability of an innovative 8-week onboarding program promising to rapidly develop competent entry-level Clinical Research Associates (CRAs)/Monitors for clinical trial sponsors and contract research organizations.

Offered exclusively to organizations for training their new CRA staff, ACRP's new CRA Onboarding Program is an immersive, experiential program putting new CRAs through a mix of didactic learning and practical simulations of real-life scenarios to aid learning retention and immediately develop the competencies required for high-quality, entry-level CRAs.

The customizable 8-week program ensures entry-level CRAs have a demonstrated ability to immediately and successfully manage tasks related to human subject protection, essential document management, monitoring visits and monitoring visit reports, test article accountability verification, and more.

The program is efficiently delivered by training professionals at sponsor and CRO sites, eliminating expenses for travel.

ACRP's announcement comes at a time when sponsors and CROs are challenged by a global shortage of qualified CRAs.

"We are excited to introduce this program and provide sponsors and CROs with a first-in-kind solution to the ongoing shortage in the CRA workforce," says Jim Kremidas, ACRP Executive Director. "By leveraging ACRP's CRA

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Onboarding Program, sponsors and CROs can rapidly onboard entry-level CRAs and immediately assign them to active trials knowing these individuals possess independently verified competence required for monitoring," Kremidas says. "Building competence in the clinical research workforce is a critical goal in achieving our mission to promote excellence in clinical research, and this program is yet another milestone in ensuring that clinical research is performed ethically, responsibly, and professionally everywhere in the world."

ACRP's CRA Onboarding Program blends online training with in-person training and exercises to ensure CRAs can immediately and effectively contribute to sponsor and CRO operations. Upon successful completion, sponsors, CROs, and CRAs will be equipped with documented competence verified by ACRP, a credible, independent non-profit organization with more than 40 years of experience in the clinical research enterprise.

An initial pilot of the ACRP CRA Onboarding Program was successfully executed last year for Samumed, LLC, a biotech company headquartered in San Diego, California. Fifteen Samumed CRAs participated in the pilot program; one year later, 94% of those who went through the program are still on staff. A second execution is planned for summer 2016 and a custom, intermediate-level program is also being developed.

"Samumed was very pleased with the results of our initial onboarding program and we are looking forward to the success of similar collaborative programs in the future," says Anita Difrancesco, Vice President, Clinical Development at Samumed, LLC.

ACRP's CRA Onboarding Program is immediately available for sponsors and CROs around the world.

For more information, please contact Jenna Rouse, Director, Business Development, at jrouse@acrpnet.org or +1.703.254.8109. This program is not currently available for individual registration/open enrollment.

About ACRP
ACRP supports clinical research professionals through membership, training and development, and certification. Founded in 1976, ACRP is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization with more than 13,000

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members who work in clinical research in more than 70 countries. ACRP's vision is that clinical research is performed ethically, responsibly, and professionally everywhere in the world. ACRP's mission is to promote excellence in clinical research. www.acrpnet.org

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