

## COSA CPD FINAL REPORT 2013

### **Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group:**

**Chair:** Hema Rajandran-Maurel, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Cancer Centre; Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Unit, Western Australia

**Members:** Sally Dean, Calvary Mater, Newcastle (Secretary); Jill Davison, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne; Valerie Jakrot, Melanoma Institute, Sydney; Dianne Lindsay ANZBCTG, Newcastle; Anne Woollett, Barwon Health, Melbourne

2013 was a very busy and rewarding year for the Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group. We went through a few changes and also accomplished one of our major goals in the area of Professional Development for our members.

One of our major goals was established thanks to a successful grant application for a Clinical Professional Day (CPD) to be held during the week of the 40<sup>th</sup> COSA ASM in Adelaide. The CPD was held as a full day training workshop on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the lead up to opening day of the 40<sup>th</sup> COSA ASM.

The workshop was facilitated by the CTRPG and Eleanor Allan from Caledonian Clinical Training. Eleanor has extensive experience in the design and delivery of interactive training for clinical research personnel and has specialised in training and quality assurance since 1997.

The full day interactive workshop focused on Clinical Trials Management, Quality Practices and GCP for all Clinical Trials Professionals. The morning session focused on GCP with a good overview of the regulatory and legal requirements in Australia. All participants interacted with each other to brainstorm ideas and learn from various case studies throughout the morning. This was a great start to the day and laid a solid foundation for the afternoon session which focused on Quality Practices in clinical trials.

The CTRPG received positive feedback following the Professional Development day. 14 people attended the workshop in total and we had 12 participants respond with completed feedback forms at the end of the workshop on the day. The majority of attendees rated the workshop excellent overall and this included both length of time of the workshop, course materials and level of the course content.

91% of those surveyed rated the module on improving working relationships/communicating with sponsors at an excellent standard. 75% of the attendees also rated the module on the burden of research, efficient processes and sharing the load as excellent. None of the attendees surveyed rated any of the modules presented on the day as less than 3 on a scale of 1 to 5; with 5 being excellent.

The workshop had a reasonable number of attendees from various clinical trials sites across Australia. The diversity of participants made for an interesting day with various experiences, case

studies and ideas exchanged throughout the afternoon. Participants were encouraged to get involved in role play and to discuss challenges faced daily in their practice and Eleanor provided excellent insight into coping strategies and management skills. The use of case studies was especially interesting to course participants with feedback comments stating such:

“Wouldn’t mind a longer workshop; maybe additional day so more time can be spent on case studies; very helpful.”

“Case studies and experience as an auditor added a really useful dimension to the learning. “

Some areas for improvement included minor typographical improvements to the course materials such as page numbers and a clearer format to follow.

The overall feedback was very positive with all modules rated highly. Participants particularly enjoyed the afternoon sessions and the practical aspects of helping them improve their working processes and communication skills.

The CTRPG were pleased with our achievements last year as the Clinical Professional Day was a key goal for the group and we wish to provide a forum for interested parties to further develop their knowledge and skills in the area of clinical trials in the year to come.

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