



Consortium of Academic Programs in Clinical Research

January 15, 2013

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to you as the officers of the Consortium of Academic Programs in Clinical Research (www.COAPCR.org). First we would like to thank those individuals, institutions and supportive organizations that have been members. Their intellectual, as well as their financial contributions, have enabled us to grow and mature into the premier organization which represents the academic programs educating the next generation of clinical research professionals. For those of you who are not familiar with our mission and activities please review our website, since we would like to extend to you an invitation to join the organization and participate in our next phase of growth.

For the past two years, we have been working to define the core competencies expected of the clinical research professional. There are several groups within the clinical research enterprise which have been working to define core competencies. Our focus has been on the clinical research staff (primarily clinical coordinators and monitors), not the clinical trialist, or the principal investigator. We have collaborated with representatives from ACRP, APCR and the CTSA institutions in this effort. We have been supported since our founding in 2003, by the Drug Information Association where we hold our face to face annual meeting. Most recently we have become a charter member of the Alliance for Clinical Research Excellence and Safety (ACRES). We are now in the process of submitting our core competency work for publication. This past October, the Clinical Research Professional (clinical coordinator and clinical monitor) has been recognized by the Council on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) as a profession and we are in the process of utilizing our core competency document to develop, under the CAAHEP umbrella, an accreditation process for the academic programs which educate clinical research professionals.

As a representative of an academic program which educates clinical research professionals we would like to invite your institution to join us in this effort to develop an internationally recognized accreditation process for our academic programs. The Consortium holds regular meetings via teleconference and we would like to invite you to join our next meeting on February 1 at 12 noon EST. To join the teleconference, just put the following URL into your browser (<http://tinyurl.com/SHRPBiopharma-p>). You are also encouraged to join our LinkedIn group. We would appreciate your input into the current effort to define the accreditation criteria and ultimately would hope that your institution will participate in the accreditation process itself.

Our yearly membership fee of \$100 has been sufficient to serve the Consortium's financial requirements and though our costs are increasing with CAAHEP affiliation, we hope to keep our membership fee at this level, but to significantly increase the size of our membership, in order to meet our financial needs. We have included a Membership Application Form with this letter. We hope that you can participate in our next telecon and that you will join us in our efforts to facilitate the maturation of our new academic discipline of clinical research.

Sincerely yours,

Carolynn Thomas-Jones
President

Barbara Gladson
Secretary

Stephen Sonstein
Treasurer