



Consortium of Academic Programs in Clinical Research

July 2014

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to you as the officers of the Consortium of Academic Programs in Clinical Research (CoAPCR).

First, we would like to thank those institutions and supportive organizations that have been members. Their intellectual, as well as their financial contributions, have enabled us to grow and mature into a premier organization representing the academic programs educating the next generation of clinical research professionals. For those who are not familiar with our mission and activities, please review our website (www.coapcr.org), 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 clinical research professionals. There are several groups within the clinical research enterprise that have been working to define core competencies, but our focus has been on the clinical research staff (primarily clinical research coordinators and monitors). We have collaborated with the Joint Task Force for Clinical Trial Competency in this project and our efforts have been published in four of the major periodicals related to the clinical research enterprise. Most recently, our organizational focus has been on developing an accreditation process for academic programs in clinical research and we have teamed with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP) in this effort. The Clinical Research Professional has been recognized as a profession by CAAHEP and CoAPCR has joined the Commission as a sponsor. We are now in the process of utilizing our core competency document to develop the Standards and Guidelines under which the accreditation process for the academic process for the academic programs will function.

As a representative of an academic program that educates clinical research professionals, we invite your institution to join us in this effort to develop an internationally recognized accreditation process for our academic programs. Your input into this effort to define the accreditation guidelines and procedures is most valuable. Ultimately, we hope that your institution will participate in the accreditation process itself which will be implemented in Fall 2015. We invite your participation in our next teleconference, LinkedIn, or at our annual meeting. Please contact us for more information.

We hope you will join us in our efforts to facilitate the maturation of our new academic discipline of clinical research. Please see our Membership Application for more information, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Carolynn Thomas-Jones, President

Barbara Gladson, Secretary

Marjorie Neidecker, Treasurer