



#### SECOND EDITION

# A quick guide<sup>™</sup> to clinical trials

# "for people who may not know it all"

**EDITED BY:** 

**Drs. Madhu Davies and Faiz Kermani** 

October 2016



BioPlan Associates, Inc. Rockville, MD

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### Preface to the Second Edition

Te were delighted to hear that readers had found the first edition of this book helpful as they began to form an understanding of the clinical trials process. This second edition has been extensively revised and re-written to include additional topics and new subject matter experts to increase the breadth of the discussion of this fascinating discipline.

This is only possible because experts have given freely of their experience. We are both very grateful to the contributors who have set aside considerable time and thought to writing chapters to help you access and understand the fascinating world of clinical trials. Thank you.

Drs Madhu Davies and Faiz Kermani, October 2016



#### **BOOK REVIEWS**

"A Quick Guide to Clinical Trials is an excellent overview of the clinical trial process and drug development from an international perspective. It does an excellent job of carefully explaining the various roles and responsibilities of drug development professionals, and rather uniquely adds the patient perspective. If you want to know what goes on behind the scenes, and more importantly why, this is the book."

> - Steven E. Linberg, PhD, Founder, S.E. Linberg Consulting, LLC; Adjunct Graduate Faculty, Johns Hopkins University

This book is a well-presented, quick reference guide covering a broad range of important and relevant clinical trial-related topics that can provide students and professionals new to industry studies with a simplified, easyto-understand resource."

> - Dr. Ernest A. Kopecky, VP, Clinical Development; Head, Neuroscience, Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc.

"This book provides many chapters of excellent information regarding clinical trials, and is a must-read for all persons involved in the area of clinical trials."

– Suzanne Sensabaugh, President and Principal Consultant, HartmannWillner

"An invaluable guide to navigate the complexities of clinical drug development."

– Leigh van Wyk, Director of Learning Strategy, Medical Education, Ogilvy Healthworld

"Having lead a Federal Agency with a 'science to service' mission, I found this book to be a straight forward and comprehensive guide to understanding the essential elements of clinical trials."

- Charles G. Curie, Principal, The Curie Group, LLC

"As clinical trials become more complex, this book still manages to keep the subject simple. If you are an investigator in academia conducting your own clinical trials, starting a career in the pharmaceutical industry, or one of the companies providing services to the pharmaceutical industry, this book is a must for you." - Prof. Michael Davidson, Professor of Psychiatry, Sackler School of Medicine

"This book is a readable, comprehensive primer on clinical trials that conveys their basic fundamentals as well as their excitement and challenges."

– Dr. Larry Alphs, Therapeutic Area Leader, Psychiatry, Janssen

"In our globally connected world, clinical trials remain the nexus of scientific exchange within the medical science community. Davies and Kermani have updated this essential primer to include a global perspective to this complex, resource-intensive process."

- Jane Chin, Ph.D. Founder, Medical Science Liaison Institute

"You are in safe hands once you open this book. The updated edition takes a new starter or even seasoned clinical research professional through the "what to do and why" scenarios very comprehensively. The regulatory advice will help project teams to understand why they are being asked to perform certain tasks or why a protocol collects certain data that could be challenging. The chapter on Japan is highly recommended - as knowing where to start and how to make a trial work there can be so difficult to navigate. Also good to see the ePRO is included and updated, given how much the industry will lean on this in future."

- Sian Hingston, Project Management Professional, PPD

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- Wylie is the CEO of the Medical Research Network, a business running clinical trial activities in the patient's own home, for 10 years. Dr Wylie's career started with 10 years at Pfizer, initially in Project Management and subsequently in systems and process re-engineering. After 5 years at Parexel as Medical Director for Northern Europe then VP Sales for Clinical Research Services, he joined Healthcare at Home in 2005, leading the management buyout of MRN in 2006.

# Chapter

# Introduction

A quick guide to clinical trials: "a book for people who may not know it all"

Drs. Madhu Davies and Faiz Kermani, PhD

#### What's in it for me: Why should I read this book?

Appropriately designed and executed clinical trials are at the heart of the successful development of new medicines for patients. Like any other specialized area, clinical trials have a vocabulary and jargon all of their own and the processes involved are highly standardized for ethical, practical and regulatory reasons. No matter. With a little help from a friend, most people can get a grip on the topic in sufficient detail to understand in general terms what people are talking about. This book is that friend.

In response to feedback on the first edition, we have re-ordered the topics and added additional subject matter; how we got to where we are being very important. The first part of this book provides a helicopter view of the background to clinical trials with Chapter 1 providing a brief history of the clinical trial as an orientation aid, and Chapter 2 explaining why we do what we do as a broad structure into which the later 'process' chapters will fit. The third chapter reviews the history of a major regulatory body, the United States Food and Drug Administration

and the considerations that led to the setting up of that body flow nicely into the 'Primer' on research ethics (Chapter 4). Complementing these chapters is the commercial perspective: the imperative for moving forward.

Armed with these chapters as background, the succeeding 'nuts and bolts' process chapters will fall into place. You will be able to see exactly how any given discipline fits in and plays its part in delivering the overall clinical trial program. For make no mistake, the successful design, execution and delivery of an effective clinical trial program relies on excellent cooperation, understanding and respect within an often widely dispersed multi-disciplinary team.

The first part of this book provides a helicopter view of the background to clinical trials....

We specifically set out to ask experienced clinical researchers from all the relevant disciplines to write succinct and straightforward chapters which would explain what their role is and how this fits into a very exciting big picture, overall. How does each group contribute to the team's success? In order to provide links between chapters there is some intentional overlap. This is particularly noticeable for discussions about ethics which demonstrates just how core these considerations are to each of our contributors and to clinical research in general.

In a world with a rich and detailed language and vocabulary, the chapters are designed to be relatively jargon-lite but yet, detailed enough to provide the framework onto which you, the reader, can attach that jargon when you are good and ready. Words are used interchangeably e.g., 'drug' and 'medicine'; 'study' and 'trial'. The principles apply across the development of medicines, devices and combinations although the specifics of the regulatory frameworks will naturally differ.

In addition, we felt it was critical to acknowledge the role of the patient and to try to understand their perspective because without their participation no clinical trial would proceed. Frequently, it is the enthusiasm and dedication of patients that keep clinical trials on track. There is currently a great need for a better public support of clinical trials, but this can only happen if both patients and clinical trial researchers fully engage with each other. Many clinical researchers are highly experienced in the operational and regulatory aspects of trials,

but how many of them have actually become involved as a patient? The answer is probably very few! In combination with the other contributions, Chapter 15 helps fill this 'gap' as it is written by someone who has both worked on clinical trials as a clinical research professional and also participated in an oncology trial as a patient.

Thinking more widely, the next two chapters discuss the nuances of clinical development in Japan and by contrast in resource-poor settings – both areas of increasing interest and activity.

... Complementing these chapters is the commercial perspective: the imperative for moving forward.

We have tried to present these chapters in a logical way so that the flow of the clinical trials process is also apparent. This is rather artificial, as it will be clear to those who read the book straight through, that many activities happen in parallel and that while there is relatively little 'down time' for any specific group, there are often times of frenzied activity!

Each chapter also stands alone as a 'quick dip' foundation or refresher.

Everyone involved in clinical trials finds it demanding to keep up-todate with current developments in the field. Therefore, as a final aspect to the book we have tried to explore what the future of clinical trials might be. There are numerous factors that have shaped clinical trials until now and far more that will influence their development in the future. We can only guess at what the future of clinical trials might be, but one certainty is that we will continue to rely on them for the development of new medicines.

So why should you read this book? Because we believe you will come away with a good basic grasp of the excitement of the clinical trials process, its drivers, checks and balances, and how you may even be able to contribute in a wide variety of ways.



Each chapter also stands alone as a 'quick dip' foundation or refresher.

#### Madhu Davies and Faiz Kermani

October 2016

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"A Quick Guide to Clinical Trials is an excellent overview of the clinical trial process and drug development from an international perspective. It does an excellent job of carefully explaining the various roles and responsibilities of drug development professionals, and rather uniquely adds the patient perspective. If you want to know what goes on behind the scenes, and more importantly why, this is the book."

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