

PharmaTimes Clinical Research Site of the Year sponsored by



**National Institute for
Health Research**



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What is the competition for?

Established in 1999, the Clinical Researcher of the Year competition was created to enable professionals working within the research fraternity, to test their skills by competing with fellow research professionals. The Clinical Research Site of the Year category was introduced in recognition of the importance to the UK's global competitiveness that a clinical research site, as a whole, can make in delivering commercial clinical trials to time and target in a cost-effective manner. The competition is run through a high level industry steering committee with members drawn from the ranks of senior directors from top Pharma Companies and NIHR.

Participation is rewarded at every step of the way, with feedback and personal development and, should you go all the way to the finals, the whole industry will join in celebrating your success at a spectacular awards ceremony organised in your honour.

Why do NIHR and the ABPI think the competition is important for research organisations?

'Research active organisations deliver better health outcomes for patients. By co-sponsoring this award with the ABPI, NIHR wishes to give high profile recognition to the key role of effective delivery of industry-sponsored clinical trials plays in the health and wealth of the nation. I encourage you and your colleagues to get involved and help showcase what the NHS has to offer the life sciences industry'. *Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer.*

'The ABPI wanted to co-sponsor this key award with NIHR in order to show the rest of the world that the UK is very much open for business and is indeed a central hub for conducting industry sponsored, quality clinical trials with the ultimate benefit to the patient. This is such an exciting time for clinical research in the UK with the recently published 'Growth Review' by the government recognising the value of clinical research to drive the health and the wealth of the nation. This competition is your opportunity to demonstrate how the NHS, and in particular teamwork within Clinical Research Sites is critical in driving this agenda forward.' *Dr Allison Jeynes-Ellis, Medical & Innovation Director, ABPI.*

History of the Category

The Clinical Research Site award is now in its third year. We invite teams of up to four people to participate in the competition. We are happy to accept multiple teams from a Hospital site or individual unit. We recognise that it is sometimes difficult to get the whole team to a finals day due to study clinic appointments. Your team can take part in the joint learning exercise of completing the Multiple Choice Questionnaire or you can delegate this to one person. If you get through this the team challenge should be completed as a team. Should you be selected for the finals we will then ask you to complete another challenge as a team and send representatives with your response to the judging panel. This must be at least two people, but not necessarily the whole team.

There is **no monetary commitment** until stage 3 (the finals) when travel expenses for the team members to Marlow will be incurred. In cases where sites cannot obtain funding for travel to the finals, please contact jill@pharmatimes.com who will try and arrange a bursary for reasonable costs. For the awards your team will be invited to attend as guests of NIHR/ABPI, any additional tickets required will be sold at half-price (£150 +VAT).

Watch the 2010 PharmaTimes Clinical Researcher of the Year Awards video

www.pharmatimes.com/clinicalresearcher

How much time commitment is involved?

The competition steering committee is only too aware of time pressure and so the competition balances the need for intellectual rigour, with busy lives. The time commitment is as follows:

Stage 1 Online Multiple Choice Questionnaire (MCQ) (ICH/GCP) Estimate 1 Hour (not necessarily in an hours' block of time)

This is an 'open-book' exercise prepared by the Institute of Clinical Research (ICR) comprising 20 questions based on ICH/GCP guidelines. There are no trick questions and the pass mark is 80%. Each answer can be researched either on-line or using the guideline handbook. You can log in and log out of the questionnaire as many times as you wish.

Stage 2 (Case Study) maximum of 1000 words Estimate 2 to 4 Hours

The case studies are category specific and draw on common environmental themes. Efforts spent here will help you with your team's personal development because they require you to think and apply knowledge and learning you have collected over the years. Themes for this year's competition include: Productivity (doing more with less), quality, ethics, innovation and patient focus amongst others.

Stage 3 The Finals

The finals are hosted by one of our competition partners SAS at their offices in Marlow (40 miles West of London). There is a great atmosphere on the day because you have already excelled in reaching the finals and will meet other equally successful participants.

Stage 4 The Awards Ceremony – Central London

The winners are announced in Central London in February 2012. This is a black-tie occasion commencing at 6.45pm and finishing late! This is our opportunity to recognise your achievement and reward the winners with the Pharma Award and a winner's cheque for £500 (runners up receive £300 and bronze receive £200).

Who can enter the competition?

Any research site can enter the competition. We are happy to accept multiple teams from a Hospital site or individual unit. We are also seeking nominations for research sites from CRAs who visit you (and you can nominate them!)

What are the Key Dates?

You can complete the MCQ any time up until the **26th August** but please remember that the challenges will be available for response from the website from mid-April. This should give you ample time to complete the challenge.

The finals day will be on the **17th November** at the offices of SAS in Medmenham, Near Marlow. You will be given an allocated time to appear according to where you are in the country and so this should not have to include overnight accommodation.

The awards will be held in central London in February 2012. Watch the website for the date!

Take your first important step for by entering your team:

<http://www.pharmatimes.com/Competitions/ClinicalResearcher/Enter.aspx>



South West Stroke Research Network, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital

What do the 2010 winners say?

1. Was it as easy as 1, 2, 3?

Phase 1 was to complete a multiple GCP quiz, whilst some of the questions were a little tricky; there was the opportunity to "look up" answers and come back to the quiz at different times. Phase 2 was a written challenge; we really enjoyed completing this as it presented an opportunity to put down on paper all the things that the team have developed over the past couple of years. Phase 3 was the "final" where we were invited to Marlow to present to a panel on a challenge given to us on the day. We were very nervous, but thoroughly enjoyed this day. The judges were genuinely interested in what we did. So it really was as easy as 1,2 3.

2. What did you get out of the competition from a development point of view?

Nicola and I have been working together for the past few years and had developed the team over that time. The competition allowed us to take stock of all the changes that we had instigated over time and we have been able to evaluate how far we have come. We have gained a lot of confidence through entering the competition and it has been very flattering to gain recognition for the work that we have done.

3. Would you recommend entering the competition to a colleague? If so, why?

I would strongly recommend entering the competition to any NHS research team. It is such a fabulous opportunity to gain recognition for the work that we do and whilst the competition itself was challenging, it was thoroughly enjoyable!
*Leigh Barron, Lead Research Practitioner on behalf of
South West Stroke Research Network, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital*

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