PharmaTimes
CLINICAL RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR 2021
THE AMERICAS

RESULTS PROGRAMME

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PharmaTimes would like to thank:

...our sponsors

...and the executive steering group members, judges, and supporters, without whom this competition would not be possible.

To find out more about PharmaTimes Clinical Researcher of the Year – The Americas 2022, please contact:

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Welcome to the 2021 PharmaTimes Clinical Researcher of the Year – The Americas Awards Stream!

This year we are celebrating the 11th instalment of the Clinical Researcher of the Year – The Americas! Despite another challenging year, this competition continues to entice the most talented individuals and teams within the industry to come forward and earn the recognition that they so truly deserve!

2020 and 2021 have, once again, proven to be demanding years for everyone involved in the research industry. However, thanks to the amazing work being carried out in clinical research, the worldwide roll-out of the vaccines has made a huge difference to how we are adjusting to living with COVID. Although this has not meant that we can hold a live event this year, travel is now opening up again and we very much hope to meet and celebrate at a live event in 2022.

The competition is reviewed annually by the Executive Steering Group to ensure it accurately reflects the environment in which clinical researchers in the Americas are working. This esteemed committee, which is made up of key industry leaders and stakeholders, have put their minds together to re-vamp the categories with brand new challenges to keep the finalists on their toes.

To make it to the finals, all 44 individual finalists and 15 teams let their creative and critical thinking shine by submitting their written response to the theme of Navigating Clinical Research in a post-COVID-19 World in Stage 2 of the competition. The finalists competed in rigorous, real-life professional challenges in the live virtual final’s day, which were designed and judged by senior clinical research leaders.

Finalists had to put their skills to the test against the best clinical researchers, from every corner of the Americas representing a huge array of different companies.

They will be fighting for their crown across ten categories, for individuals these included: Clinical Research Co-ordinator, New CRA, Experienced CRA, Clinical Trial Manager, Project Manager and Study Start-up. Meanwhile the teams will be eagerly anticipating the results for the Company Team, Strategic Team and Study Start-up Team categories. The candidates have all shown incredible talent and determination to reach the finals of the PharmaTimes Clinical Researcher of the Year – The Americas; and we wish them all the very best of luck tonight as the results of the competition are revealed.

I raise a virtual toast to all of those who had the initiative and courage to pursue this professional achievement of being a Finalist of the Clinical Researcher of the Year - The Americas!

Cheers,

Debbie Rosenbaum
Chair, Clinical Researcher of the Year – The Americas
THAT MOMENT WHEN...

LIFE-CHANGING THERAPIES ARE ON THE LINE

PPD never backs down from a challenge. When life-changing therapies are on the line, we will always be ready in that moment to move medicine forward.

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Clinical Operations, PPD

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President, Sarrison

Nila Williams  
Senior Director, Clinical Operations,  
ICON plc

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JUDGES

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Syneos Health

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Labcorp Drug Development

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**Jay Yockelson**  
President, Clinical Trials of North Carolina, LLC

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CLINICAL RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR

GOLD – WINNER
Omar Kalash
The Ohio State University Medical Center

SILVER
Alexandria Huntsman
PPD

BRONZE
Francesca Vigil
Benchmark Research

FINALISTS
Colette Hilliard
Vasantha Lakshmi Raparthi
PPD
NEW CLINICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

GOLD – WINNER
Amelia Zessin
Labcorp Drug Development

SILVER
Rheall Roquet
PPD

BRONZE
Ali Drury-Sibiga
ICON plc

FINALISTS
Logan Burrell
PPD

Si Yin Chin
PPD

Sarah Comfort
PPD

Mariana Diaz
Mercado Gonzalez
ICON plc

Ron Frianeza
PPD

Brenda Giebe
PPD

Andrea Rakic
Labcorp Drug Development

Marissa Tangerini
PPD

Chloe Truong
MedTrials, Inc
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CLINICAL TRIAL MANAGER

GOLD - WINNER
Rafi Ahmad
ICON plc

SILVER
Denesy Mancenido
ICON plc

BRONZE
Jessica Gail Nario
AceLink Therapeutics

FINALISTS
Teresann Crowe
ICON plc

Sarah Gray Horwood
PPD

Sarah Hooper
ICON plc

Kimberly Stephenson-Miles
ICON plc

Lorene Ward
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PROJECT MANAGER

GOLD – WINNER
Leigh Miller
Precision for Medicine

SILVER
Celine Tizon
Parexel International

BRONZE
David Lew
IQVIA Biotech

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START UP OF THE YEAR – SINGLES

GOLD – WINNER
Nabila Shoaib
ICON plc

SILVER
Polina Fridman
ICON plc

BRONZE
Anderson Miyashita
PPD
EXCLUSIVE:

The winners’ story in full, only in PharmaTimes

PharmaTimes is the UK’s leading pharmaceutical magazine, tracking the trends and issues that affect the industry here in the UK, in Europe and across the world.

The next issue will include a full review of this year’s competition and awards ceremony, with exclusive behind the scenes coverage and more!

Don’t miss it.

Visit magazine.pharmatimes.com for your free digital issue
COMPANY TEAM OF THE YEAR

GOLD – WINNER

PPD

There’s No CRoYing in Research
Nicole Stoffel, Ashley Nolan, Michelle Straka, William “Bill” Thornton

SILVER

PPD

Critical Thinkers
Rodlyne Alexis, Kristina Carter, Amy Robert, Naeem Shaikh, Marissa Tangerini, Antoinette Torres

BRONZE

ICON plc

Troop 1572
Brandi Brake, Helen Elam, Maxie Jackson, Deirdre Knapp, Shericka Thompson
COMPANY TEAM OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

ICON plc
Movers, Shakers, & Barrier Breakers
Melissa Leedom, Julie Franklin, Stephanie Luque, Ronda McPherson, Joyce Gaudieri

ICON plc
Close Encounters of a Research Kind
Kari Guthrie, Laura Lapsys, Dan Lee, Alicia Neitzel

Labcorp Drug Development
The cONCquerors (Oncology Research in a post-COVID world)
Lauren Bellew, Jennifer Eisenberger, Natacha Grand, Julie Wilhjelm, Amelia Zessin

PPD
The Patient Centric Partners
Taylor Kozam, Alexander Sifuentes, Taylor Simmons

PPD
Sourcerers
Natasha Williams, Jaden Lantz, Melisa Soland
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
TEAM OF THE YEAR

GOLD – WINNER

The Perfect Mix
Heather Jared, ICON plc
Carrie Lewis, Endo
Lora Rudolph, Endo
Leslie Ruhno Grimes, ICON plc

SILVER

ePRO COAches
Kelly Doyle, Merck
Susan Fallon, Merck
Robert Schneck, Merck
Jessica Zischang, ICON plc
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All the data you require—
All the capabilities and solutions you need—
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START UP TEAM OF THE YEAR

GOLD – WINNER
PPD
The Speed Queens
April Gadow, Rachel Albert, Heather Figueroa

SILVER
ICON plc
Start-Up SMK-Down
Michelle Millard, Kate Akers, Sarah Driskell

BRONZE
PPD
Activation All-Stars
Keowanna Best, Monica Ermanni-Babson, Melissa Lancaster

FINALISTS
Labcorp Drug Development
Thundercats
Anastasia Cheng, Claire Kendle, Ryan Knezek

PPD
Clinical Cinco
Angeli Carreon, Erica Harris, Kyle Niquette
CLINICAL RESEARCH COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Awarded for
Outstanding Performance

GOLD – WINNER

ICON
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