



The Voice of the CRO Industry

The Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO) is the professional organization of companies whose focus is outsourced clinical research. The association provides an active voice for the CRO industry, which provides specialized services that are integral to the development of drugs, biologics and medical devices. ACRO helps its members improve the quality, efficiency and safety of biomedical research.

Since its founding in 2002, ACRO has worked to highlight CRO expertise in all aspects of clinical research. ACRO is committed to being a leading voice for safe, ethical clinical trials. Our member companies demonstrate the strategic value of clinical outsourcing and promote CROs as partners in drug development.

ACRO members have regular opportunities to collaborate with representatives of stakeholders globally – including the US FDA, EMEA, European Commission, PhRMA, and BIO, as well as academic medicine, patient groups and others – in exploring new paradigms for research and development, a better and more efficient development pipeline, and expanded opportunities for clinical outsourcing companies.

Benefits of ACRO membership include: a forum for setting business and ethical standards and developing best practices; participation in initiatives that promote our industry and encourage outsourcing; opportunities for sector-specific and cross-industry networking; and access to collaborative interactions with clients, regulators, policy makers, and the media.

ACRO Members At-A-Glance

- ACRO member companies provide a full range of clinical outsourcing services and conduct research in more than 60 countries.
- ACRO members employ more than 40,000 people worldwide and generate an estimated 70% of CRO industry revenue.
- Since 2000, ACRO members have been growing at 17% annually, a rate significantly higher than that of overall development spending.

ACRO Leadership

- 2007 Chair: **Jeffrey McMullen**, President and CEO, PharmaNet Development Group
- 2006 Chair: **Candace Kendle**, Chairman and CEO, Kendle
- 2005 Chair: **Josef von Rickenbach**, Chairman and CEO, PAREXEL International
- 2004 Chair: **Chris Kuebler**, Chairman and CEO, Covance
- 2003 Chair: **Fred Eshelman**, CEO, PPD
- 2002 Chair: **Dennis Gillings**, Chairman, Quintiles Transnational

To learn more about ACRO, please visit www.acrohealth.org

Association of Clinical Research Organizations

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2002

ACRO is founded by leading clinical research companies: Covance, Kendle, PAREXEL International, PPD and Quintiles Transnational

FDA Commissioner Mark B. McClellan speaks at ACRO's inaugural meeting of CRO industry leaders.

2003

ACRO doubles in size with new member companies, including PharmaNet, PRA International, and Medifacts International.

ACRO sponsors educational forum titled "*Clinical Research Participation: Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Possibilities*" that focuses on actions industry stakeholders can take to bolster public understanding of, and confidence in, clinical research.

ACRO provides input to Congress on pending legislation and makes formal regulatory comments to the FDA.

2004

MDS Pharma Services becomes the newest ACRO member.

ACRO continues to collaborate with regulatory agencies around the world to improve and streamline the development process for safe, effective medical products, including meetings with the leadership of the EMEA and European Commission's Pharmaceutical Unit.

ACRO shares its member companies' expertise with formal input to the FDA's *Critical Path Initiative* and EMEA's *Roadmap to 2010*.

PhRMA President and CEO Alan Holmer and FDA representatives address ACRO leaders.

2005

ACRO welcomes United BioSource Corp. as new member.

ACRO joins the Center for Information and Study on Clinical Research Participation (CISCRP) Circle of Supporters.

ACRO continues to expand its global focus by meeting with the Drugs Controller General of India.

Billy Tauzin, newly appointed President and CEO of PhRMA, meets with ACRO members.

FDA leaders including Acting Commissioner Lester Crawford and Janet Woodcock address the ACRO Board of Directors.

2006

To objectively evaluate CRO industry growth, ACRO commissions a study of clinical outsourcing by the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development. The study finds that CROs expand speed and capacity of pharmaceuticals' product development pipeline.

ACRO continues its leadership role with the Clinical Data Acquisition Standards Harmonization (CDASH) Initiative. The project was spearheaded by ACRO as part of the FDA's *Critical Path Initiative* now being led by CDISC.

2007

ACRO continues to work with policy makers and regulatory agencies worldwide on drug development issues including innovation in clinical trial design improvements in drug safety, and steps to ensure study participant safety.

ACRO joins The Biomarkers Consortium. For more information about The Biomarkers Consortium, please visit: www.fnih.org

ACRO joins the Coalition for a Stronger FDA. For more information about the Coalition for a Stronger FDA, please visit: www.fdaoalition.org