

ACRO: Advocates for Clinical Research Organizations

The Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO) represents the world's leading Clinical Research Organizations (CROs), the companies that provide specialized research services for the development of drugs, biologics and medical devices. ACRO helps its members improve the quality, efficiency and safety of biomedical research, and is dedicated to fostering an environment in which laws, regulations, and public policy benefits its members, their customers, and the patients who will live longer and better lives because of the development of new treatments.

ACRO's constituencies include:

- Clinical research organizations of any size, who can rely on ACRO to represent the clinical trials industry to sponsors, health policy makers and the public, and to advance the common interests of research and development services companies.
- Pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device companies, who call upon CRO resources and expertise to help bring new treatments to patients quickly and safely.
- Legislators and regulators, who need unbiased information about the clinical research enterprise to make decisions in the best interest of patient care and safety.
- Patient advocacy groups, who dedicate themselves to furthering research and improving treatments for specific diseases or populations.
- Media, who require authoritative information from clinical research experts.

ACRO has regular discussions with regulators at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and other national regulatory bodies. The Association also maintains collegial working relationships with organizations representing associated industries such as the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC), the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP), and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The Association also represents CROs before committees of the U.S. Congress.

Recently, the amount of money spent on pharmaceutical research and development has grown each year, reaching nearly \$39 billion in 2004. According to the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development (CSDD), the industry is increasingly turning to CROs to streamline the clinical research process.



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In 2004, the CSDD found that leading CROs managed 23,000 Phase I-IV clinical trials worldwide, monitored more than 150,000 clinical investigators and enrolled more than 640,000 new subjects in clinical research projects. A key aspect of ACRO's mission is to help its members secure their share of the funds spent on drug and medical device development by demonstrating the expertise, speed and efficiency that they bring to the clinical trial process.

Membership

Membership in ACRO is open to any company whose core business is clinical research. Regular Member companies support the association's activities and initiatives on behalf of the industry through participation on the ACRO Board of Directors. Companies that join as Associate Members elect one member to ACRO's board and are active in a wide variety of association initiatives.

How do companies benefit from joining ACRO?

As well as the prospect of representation on a number of Association committees, ACRO offers all kinds of other important benefits for member companies.

Opportunities for cross-industry networking, for example. A platform for members to come together and develop strategies for promoting industry. The setting and maintenance of business and ethical standards, and best practices. And last but not least, an invaluable chance to interact with regulators, peer associations and other allied bodies and institutions.

Most importantly, ACRO allows for the industry to come together and act and speak in a unified voice on crucial issues and future developments.

To learn more about the benefits of ACRO membership, please contact us.

