An Opportunity for the Clinical Research Industry to Support the UK Government Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Your company is a member of ACRO (The Association of Clinical Research Organizations) which represents the clinical research and technology organizations that conduct and support the conduct of clinical trials around the world. We wish to make you aware of a request from the government of the United Kingdom asking our industry, via ACRO, to assist in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming days, the government plans to establish 75-125 centres for COVID-19 testing; each centre will have 5 testing bays. The government plans to run these test centres from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week with 2 shifts, 8am to 3pm / 3pm to 8pm. Each testing centre will need approximately 20 testers, a supervisor per shift, as well as a first-aid assistant per shift. All PPE (personal protective equipment) will be provided to volunteers who will administer throat and nasal swab tests. Swabs taken will be put in vials and the vials shipped to lab testing centres in Nottingham, Edinburgh, and Milton Keynes. It is anticipated that a total of 2,000 volunteers will be needed. Volunteers should have an appropriate clinical background; e.g., physicians, nurses, phlebotomists and laboratory technicians, dentists, medical students. Test centre locations are being finalized. It is anticipated that these centres will operate through the end of April.

The member companies of ACRO intend to assist the UK government in its response to the current public health crisis, and ACRO is reaching out to company employees to encourage you to volunteer for this initiative. We stress that providing this assistance to the government as it rolls out large-scale COVID-19 testing is strictly voluntary – there is no expectation that any individual agree to perform swab collection. However, we are hopeful that many of the dedicated clinical and research professionals of our member companies will answer the government’s call for assistance.

If you have appropriate clinical training and would like to volunteer to be trained to collect nose and throat swab samples, please provide your contact information, including email and mobile number, to Elyssa Clauson at eclauson@acrohealth.org

The member companies of ACRO deeply appreciate the ways in which their employees advance human health every day. ACRO thanks you for considering volunteering your skills to assist the UK government at this critical time.