

PRESS RELEASE

24 January 2013

**2013 – The Year the Clinical Research Industry
Adopts Accredited Training?**

Is 2013 going to be the year that the entire clinical research industry gets behind the implementation of an industry-wide accredited training programme? The International Academy of Clinical Research (IAoCR) certainly thinks so and has been making significant steps towards gaining this approval from some of the major names in the industry as well as from politicians and policy makers both in the UK and Europe.

In late 2012, the IAoCR held its first **Training & Quality Assurance Symposium (TaQAS)**, where representatives from leading Pharmaceutical companies and Clinical Research Organisations met to share views and opinions on existing training programmes and how to work together to produce one comprehensive, competence-based accredited training programme that would be recognised by the entire industry, with a view to shaping best practice in the UK and further afield.

The symposium was also the platform for the IAoCR to officially launch its **GxP Training Guidelines**. As Jacqueline Johnson-North, CEO of the IAoCR explains: “The guidelines have been met with largely positive reviews and are seen by most in the industry as a great starting point for us to begin making a move towards accredited training. We want to maintain an open dialogue with any interested parties and are very interested in any feedback on the guidelines and how they can be adapted to suit the widest possible audience.”

The launch of the GxP Training Guidelines was a fitting end to an eventful year for the IAoCR. During 2012, the organisation worked to gain the support of key individuals for its campaign for accredited training. At a meeting at the Carlton Club in March 2012, a member of the **Health Select committee**, Virendra Sharma MP, announced his support of the move towards accreditation, alongside representatives from the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) and IMI/EMTRAIN.

In November 2012, the IAoCR met with Theresa May, the **Home Secretary** and received support from her with regards to assisting new graduates in finding work in the clinical research industry. Off the back of this meeting, the IAoCR is now meeting with David Willetts, **Minister of State for Universities and Science**.

Looking forward into 2013, the IAoCR is launching its **Clinical Research Competencies Task Forces** alongside the development of a number of specific accredited programmes for individual companies within the industry. There are also a number of **International Think Tanks** being organised for later in 2013 to expand support of this campaign from the UK and Europe onto the global stage.

Martin Robinson, Principal Director at the IAoCR says: “We are so close to making this a reality. More and more of the major players are coming to us and asking if we can work with them to develop internal training programmes. It is only a matter of time before the entire industry realises that if one organisation is already running accredited courses, then surely it is in everyone’s best interest for recognised accreditation to be introduced across the board. By doing this, the industry will be invigorated; new blood will come in and experienced professionals will be able to move around and work where they are best suited. Training costs and times will be reduced, competencies will improve and trials will run more efficiently – ultimately safeguarding patients and delivering drugs to market quicker.”

For more information on the IAoCR campaign or to receive a copy of the GxP Training Guidelines, please visit www.iaocr.com.

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For further press information or to arrange an interview with a spokesperson from the IAoCR, please contact: Jo Henderson, PR Consultant
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Notes to Editors:

International Academy of Clinical Research (IAoCR) aims to introduce independently recognised and competence based accreditations for clinical research professionals that enable the industry to safeguard patients and deliver drugs more quickly to market. IAoCR was founded following several years of consultation with industry leaders who highlighted a need for recognised professional accreditations for clinical research monitors, project managers and trainers; and accreditation of clinical research training courses.

All IAoCR training programmes and short courses are independently accredited by organisations regulated by OFQUAL (Office for Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), which reports into UK parliament.

IAoCR is in support of the EU-funded [EMTRAIN](#) project and is actively speaking to parliamentarians in the UK and overseas regarding professional standards for the clinical research industry.

For more information on IAoCR, visit www.iaocr.com or telephone +44 (0)845 30 17 390.