

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**13 December 2012**

**The International Academy of Clinical Research's Campaign for Accredited Training Gains Support from Home Secretary**

After a positive meeting last week with Home Secretary, Theresa May, the International Academy of Clinical Research (IAoCR) is now hoping to meet with other Members of Parliament to discuss its campaign to introduce accreditation of clinical research professionals to the industry.

This meeting is a promising leap forward for the IAoCR which has been working tirelessly over the past 18 months to garner support from leading pharmaceutical companies and contract research organisations for internationally recognised accreditation.

In the meeting with the Home Secretary, the IAoCR highlighted the current predicament that the industry faces with a lack of job opportunities for recent graduates and a lack of suitable employees to fill CRA vacancies due to the fact that trial sponsors require a minimum of two years' experience, regardless of skills and competence.

The Home Secretary made it clear that finding employment for graduates is a key focus area for the government and was interested to hear about how IAoCR accreditations would help enable those with less than two years' experience to find jobs.

As Martin Robinson, Principal Director at the IAoCR explains: "Theresa May was particularly interested in hearing how accredited training could bring about a shift in focus across the whole clinical research industry. Rather than remaining fixated on the particular number of years' experience of any given person, the industry should focus on ensuring measurable competence of clinical research staff. In this way, someone with less than two years' experience who could demonstrate the appropriate mix and level of competence could find a job. If the clinical research sector was prepared to engage with universities in work placement schemes, students could gain the necessary experience which in combination with accredited competence-based training programmes could open up opportunities for getting relatively new graduates into clinical research."

The IAoCR made it clear that any accreditations would help protect the rights and wellbeing of clinical trial patients and deliver drugs to market quicker, both of which would provide a much needed boost to the healthcare sector.

An all-party meeting is being arranged in April 2013 where the IAoCR, leading pharmaceutical companies, contract research organisations and parliamentarians will come together to discuss how the industry can support graduate recruitment into clinical research without compromising patient safety or trial quality.

For more information, please visit [www.iaocr.com](http://www.iaocr.com).

**ENDS**

## **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](http://www.iaocr.com) or telephone +44 (0)845 30 17 390.