Accreditation of Academic Programs in Clinical Research

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Disclosure of Conflict of Interest (COI)

- The author has no Conflict of Interest (COI) with regard to the presentation.
Development of Academic Programs in Clinical Research

• First appeared in late 1990’s
  • Postbaccalaureate certificates and MS degrees
  • Primarily in areas where large pharma and CRO presence

• Provide upward mobility for clinical research professionals already working

• Provide pipeline of new highly qualified graduates to enterprise
  • Associate level, baccalaureate level

• Currently over 50 in US and 50+ globally
Consortium of Academic Programs in Clinical Research (COAPCR)

- Formed in 2003 to provide forum for collaboration to early programs
- Currently 29 member programs at all academic levels
  - 100+ globally
- Supported by pharma, CRO’s and professional organizations
- Developed independently
  - Need to standardize curriculum
  - Ensure quality, current content
- Programmatic accreditation is accepted method
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

- Largest programmatic accredits in health sciences field
  - Accredits over 2000 educational programs in 28 disciplines
  - Recognized by Council for Higher Education Accreditation in US and internationally

- 2014 - COAPCR agreed to sponsor Committee on Accreditation (CAAPCR)
  - Charged with developing Standards and Guidelines for accreditation of academic programs in Clinical Research
Committee on Accreditation of Academic Programs in Clinical Research (CAAPCR)

• Formed in 2014
• Composed of representatives from academic programs, professional associations, pharmaceutical companies and clinical sites

• Developed Standards and Guidelines
  • Curriculum requirements based on JTF Core Competency Framework
  • Ensures that faculty are appropriately qualified
  • Ensures that program are being supported by university administration
  • Approved by CAAHEP in May, 2017
Committee on Accreditation of Academic Programs in Clinical Research (CAAPCR)

- Began accepting requests for accreditation services in September, 2017
  - Currently 7 requests – both US and global
  - Requires self-study by program to document that Standards met
  - Site visit follows to validate documentation in self-study
  - Board reviews and recommends to CAAHEP
  - Initial accreditation for 5 years with annual reports to CAAPCR

- First Program accredited by CAAHEP in September, 2018
  - Arizona State University Program in Clinical Research Management
    - Certificate and MS Programs

- CAAPCR awaiting self-studies for remaining programs and encouraging additional requests
Future

- Education, Accreditation and Professional Certification need to be linked
  - Academic degree
  - Hands-on experience (internship, preceptorship, etc)
  - Professional certification examination
  - Entry level clinical research professional
  - Licensure ???

Clinical Research has truly become a profession and an academic discipline
Questions, Comments, Suggestions