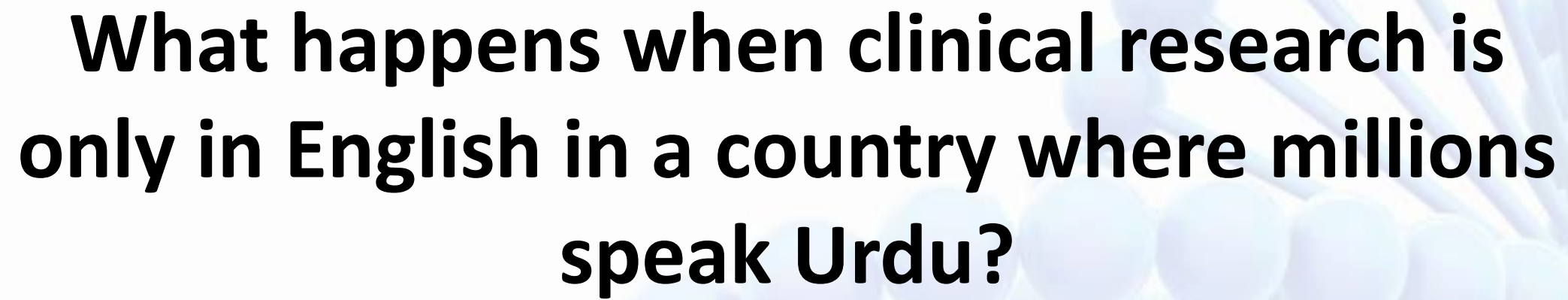


# From Translation To Transformation

Advancing Clinical Research Competencies In Pakistan  
Through The Urdu JTF Framework

*Joint Task Force For Clinical Trial Competency (JTF)  
Biannual Global Meeting 2025*

**Dr. Saboora Waris, PhD and Post Doc (Australia), ACRP-  
CPI, IPPCR, QMS Lead Auditor (9001:2015)  
Director Research and Quality  
Maroof International Hospital**



## Navigation Challenges

Receiving a map in a foreign language leads to confusion and misdirection.

## Clinical Trials Risk

English-only documents can diminish engagement and trust in participants.

## Essential Translation Needs

Translating materials is vital  
for accurate understanding  
and participation.

## Language barriers

Language barriers can undermine informed consent, community engagement, and understanding of trial procedures.



# Why Urdu Specifically Matters In Clinical Research



Choosing Urdu for translation is essential due to its national relevance and strong institutional support.

## **National Relevance**

As the lingua franca of Pakistan, Urdu is widely understood across provinces, facilitating communication and unity.

## **Institutional Support**

The National Language Promotion Department actively promotes Urdu, ensuring its growth and usage in various sectors.



**MAROOF**  
International Hospital  
*Taking Health Care To The Next Level!!!*

# The Challenge of Language in Clinical Research



**NUMS**  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

## Limited Availability of Localized Resources



### Misinterpretation of Technical Terms

Direct translation of complex medical and research terminology may cause misunderstanding. Leads to errors in protocol implementation, data collection, and ethical compliance

### Training and Communication Barriers

- Workshops, seminars, and online courses are often conducted in English
- Researchers with limited English proficiency may **struggle to grasp concepts fully**

### Cultural Nuances

Misunderstanding cultural context in translation may lead to mistrust or reluctance to participate among patients.

# Local Engagement in Clinical Trials

Trials Initiated Since 1992

**5280**

Since 1999, 5280 clinical trials have initiated in Pakistan.

Active Trials Today

**480-500+**

As of 2025, Pakistan has **around 480–500 active clinical trials** registered across WHO ICTRP and ClinicalTrials.gov

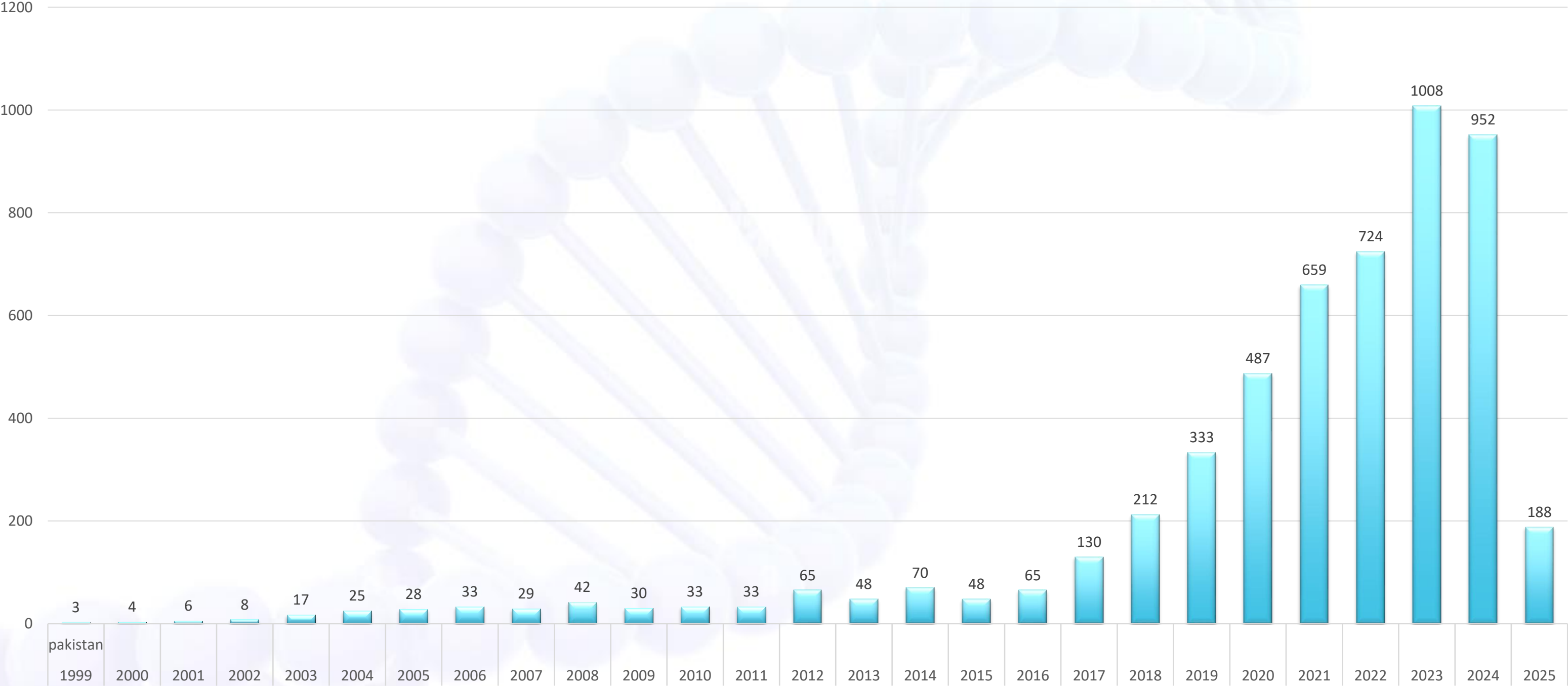
Global Contribution Rate

**~0.35%**

Pakistan's contribution to global clinical trials is roughly at 0.35 %, reflecting a potential area of focus.

**Data Retrieved from WHO  
ICTRP, Clinicaltrials.gov**

# Graph showing number of clinical trails in Pakistan since 1999 to 2025



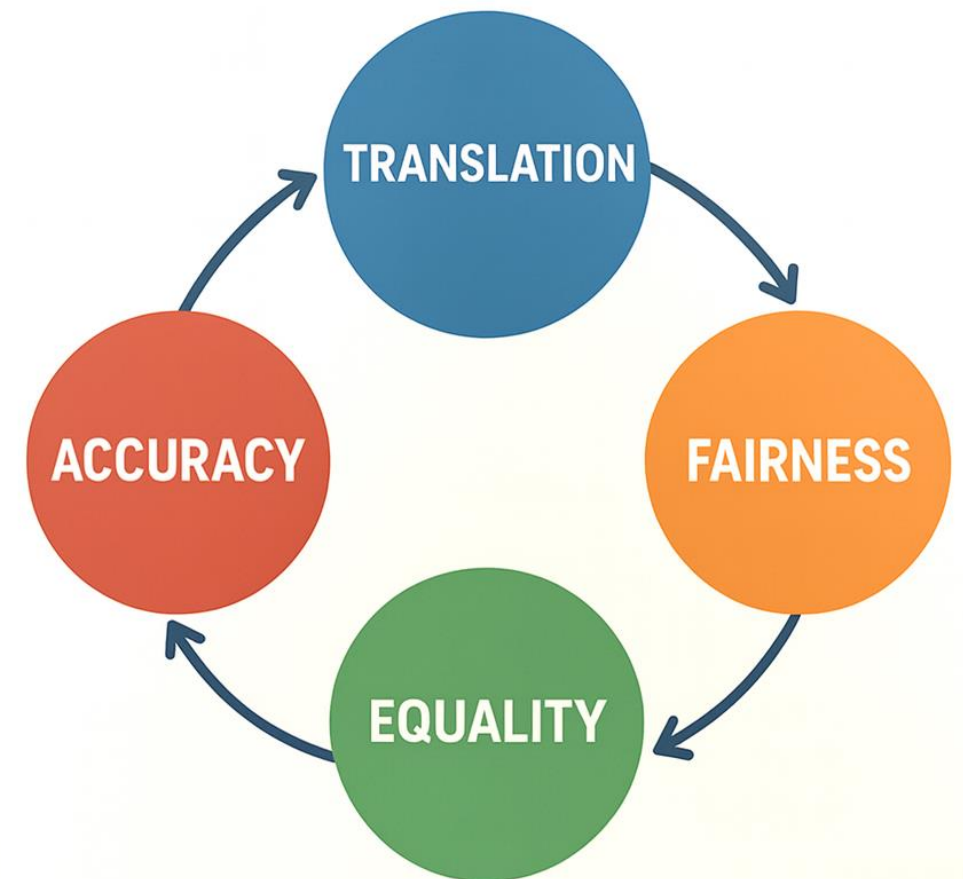
Data Retrieved from WHO  
ICTRP, Clinicaltrials.gov

# The JTF (“Joint Task Force”) Concept

**A Joint task force for clinical trial competency framework** which aims to define the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for conducting safe and high-quality clinical research. The framework includes 8 competency domains that encompass various aspects of clinical research, such as patient care, regulatory knowledge and study management.

- **Structured process** to translate clinical research materials (guidelines, sops, consent forms, training modules) into different languages.
- **Goals:** improve comprehension, facilitate training, ensure ethical conduct, build local capacity.
- **Components:** translation + validation + training + dissemination.

## JOINT TASK FORCE- FOR CLINICAL TRIALS COMPETENCY



# Why Linguistic Accessibility Matters in Clinical Trials

## Workforce & System-Level Benefits

- **Enhances Comprehension of Complex Clinical Research Concepts**
- **Standardizes Knowledge Across All Disciplines** involved in trials
- **Improves Capacity Building Nationwide** through accessible training
- **Empowers Local Workforce & Promotes Inclusivity** in clinical research
- **Ensures Accurate Implementation of Global Standards** in local settings

## Participant-Facing Benefits

- **Enhances Participant Understanding** by delivering information in a familiar language
- **Improves Informed Consent Quality** and supports ethical decision-making
- **Increases Recruitment & Retention** by reducing language barriers
- **Promotes Data Accuracy & Reliability** through clearer communication
- **Supports Regulatory & Ethical Standards** requiring linguistic accessibility



# “Translating Excellence: JTF Competency Guide In Urdu”

- Bringing **global clinical research standards** to Pakistan.
- Making **complex competencies** easy to understand in Urdu.
- Supporting **training & professional growth**.

## BRINGING GLOBAL CLINICAL RESEARCH STANDARDS TO PAKISTAN



**MAKING COMPLEX  
COMPETENCIES  
EASY TO  
UNDERSTAND  
IN URDU**



**SUPPORTING  
TRAINING &  
PROFESSIONAL  
GROWTH**

# How We Achieved It

- **Expert Task Force**-Formation of a Multidisciplinary Working Group – Clinicians, Clinical Researchers, language experts, QA professionals.
- **Accurate Translation –Initial Translation (Forward Translation)** Iterative process with cross-checks.
- **Validation & Quality Assurance** – Clear, consistent, culturally relevant.
- **Stakeholder Feedback** – P-tested in local institutions Pilot.

## کلینکل ریسرچ پرو فیشنل کے لیے کور کمپیٹنسی فریم ورک-ورژن 3.1

### مہارت یافتہ (Skilled)، اور اعلیٰ (Advanced) سطح

C - اعلیٰ درجے کی سطح	B - ہنرمند سطح	A - بنیادی سطح
ڈومین نمبر 1: سائنسی تصورات اور تحقیقی ڈیزائن: کلینکل ٹرائلز کے ڈیزائن اور تجزیہ سے متعلق سائنسی تصورات کا علم اس میں شامل ہے۔		
1.1 حیاتیاتی طبی علوم (بائیومیڈیکل سائنس) کے اصولوں پر مبنی تحقیقی مصنوعات کی دریافت، ترقی اور صحت سے متعلق رویوں کا مداخلتی اطلاق زیر بحث ہے۔		
<p>C1 - سائنسی اصولوں کے مطابق بائیومیڈیکل ریسرچ کا منصوبہ بنائیں۔</p> <p>C2 - سائنسی اصولوں کے مطابق ڈیٹا مینجمنٹ پلان تیار کریں۔</p>	<p>B1 - طب یا رویہ کے مطالعہ میں سائنسی اصولوں کا اطلاق کریں۔</p> <p>B2 - سائنسی اصولوں کے مطابق اور پروٹوکول ڈیزائن کی بنیاد پر ڈیٹا اکٹھا کرنا۔</p>	<p>A1 - اس بات کا ادراک کہ سائنسی اصول کو حیاتیاتی علوم کی تحقیقاتی مصنوعات اور صحت سے متعلق مداخلتی رویوں اور تبدیلی کی دریافت و ترقی میں لاگو کرنا ضروری ہے۔</p> <p>A2 - وہ بنیادی سائنسی اصول بیان کرنا جو حیاتیاتی علوم کی تحقیقاتی مصنوعات اور صحت سے متعلق مداخلتی رویوں اور تبدیلی کے دوران لاگو ہونے چاہئیں۔</p>
<p>مثال: جب کلینکل ریسرچ پروٹوکول دیا جاتا ہے، تو محقق فرق بیان کرتا ہے کہ کون سے اصول اس پر اثر انداز ہو سکتے ہیں اور یہ کہ ڈیٹا کیسے اکٹھا کیا جائے اور کیسے بہترین طریقوں پر عمل درآمد کیا جائے؟</p>	<p>مثال: جب کلینکل ریسرچ پروٹوکول دیا جاتا ہے، تو محقق فرق بیان کرتا ہے کہ کون سے اصول اس پر اثر انداز ہو سکتے ہیں اور یہ کہ ڈیٹا کیسے اکٹھا کیا جائے اور کیسے بہترین طریقوں پر عمل درآمد کیا جائے؟</p>	<p>مثال: جب کلینکل ریسرچ پروٹوکول دیا جاتا ہے، تو محقق فرق بیان کرتا ہے کہ کون سے اصول اس پر اثر انداز ہو سکتے ہیں اور یہ کہ ڈیٹا کیسے اکٹھا کیا جائے اور کیسے بہترین طریقوں پر عمل درآمد کیا جائے؟</p>
1.2 ایسے سائنسی سوالات کی نشاندہی کریں جو ممکنہ طور پر قابل آزمائش طبی تحقیقی مفروضے پر مبنی ہوں۔		



**MAROOF**

International Hospital

*Taking Health Care To The Next Level!!!*



**MULTI-REGIONAL  
CLINICAL TRIALS**

THE MRCT CENTER of  
BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL  
and HARVARD



**NUMS**  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

# From Translation To Transformation

Advancing Clinical Research Competencies In Pakistan  
Through The Urdu JTF Framework

**Dr. Baber Saeed Khan, MBBS, MPH, CPI, FAPCR**  
**Director Clinical Trial Unit**

# Turning Knowledge into Action

- Standardized clinical research knowledge **across Pakistan**
- Enhanced **understanding & compliance** with international standards
- Strengthened **professional development & capacity building**



*Standardized clinical research knowledge across Pakistan*



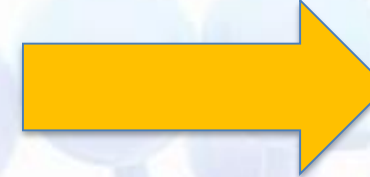
*Enhanced understanding & compliance with international standards*



*Strengthened professional development & capacity building*

**Pilot Objectives:**

- Assess clarity
- Evaluate interpretation
- Identify improvements



**Participants:**

- 20 researchers
- Coordinators & QA staff
- Diverse backgrounds



**Assessment Metrics:**

- Comprehension Score
- Clarity Rating
- Applicability Rating

**Methods:**

- Distribute Urdu Guide
- MCQ Assessment
- Feedback Collection



**Data Analysis:**

- Analyze MCQs & feedback
- Identify issues
- Refine translation

**Timeline:**

- Pilot Duration: 2–3 weeks

# Execution Plan – Urdu JTF Competency Guide in Pakistan

To **disseminate the Urdu-translated JTF Competency Guide** to clinical research stakeholders across Pakistan and ensure uptake through structured pilot testing and awareness.

## **Design Distribution Materials:**

- Printed copies
- PDF/online version for easy access
- Accompanying MCQ assessment tool for comprehension

## **Stakeholder Identification**

- DRAP and NBC
- Universities & Academic Institutions

## **Workshops & Training Sessions:**

# How can the Competency Framework be utilized?

**Education**

**Streamlining educational requirements**

**Investigator Selection**

**Defining criteria for investigator selection**

**Job Descriptions**

**Standardizing job descriptions**

**Development of Accreditation standards**

**Defining standards for accreditation**

**Site Qualification**

**Defining criteria for site selection and qualification**

**Training Requirements**

**Standardizing and streamlining training requirements**

# Implementation timeline

## PHASE

## TIMELINE

## ACTIVITIES

**FINALIZATION**

Week 1–2

Incorporate pilot study feedback,  
finalize guide

**MATERIAL READINESS**

Week 3

Print copies, prepare PDFs, MCQs

**DISTRIBUTION**

Week 4–6

Deliver to DRAP, universities, Clinical  
Trial Units research centers across  
Pakistan

**ORIENTATION & FEEDBACK**

Week 5–7

Conduct sessions, collect  
comprehension data

**EVALUATION**

Week 20

Summarize feedback and refine  
implementation strategy

# OUTCOME & IMPACT

- Standardized **clinical research competency knowledge** in Pakistan.
- Broader reach through **DRAP endorsement and university engagement**.
- Improved **research quality, compliance, and professional development**.



**STANDARDIZED  
CLINICAL RESEARCH  
COMPETENCY  
KNOWLEDGE  
IN PAKISTAN**



**BROADER REACH  
THROUGH DRAP  
ENDORSEMENT AND  
UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGEMENT**



**IMPROVED RESEARCH  
QUALITY, COMPLIANCE  
AND PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

# Benefits of Translation to Clinical Research Competencies



Translation in clinical research enhances understanding and compliance with regulations, thereby improving overall research quality.

## Training and Capacity Building

Training staff in Urdu leads to enhanced understanding of GCP, ethics, and SOPs, boosting research quality and compliance.

## Informed Consent

Participants show improved comprehension when materials are available in their native languages, enhancing informed consent processes.

# Call to Action/ Recommendations



Stakeholders must take immediate action to drive transformation forward. Funders should prioritize funding for translating research materials into Urdu and engage community leaders in outreach initiatives. Businesses can develop partnerships to further expand the reach of resources.

# Acknowledgement

- Munaza Jamil - McMaster University Canada
- Irfan Yousuf
- Zayanah S Khan
- Israr Ayubi





# THANKS