

As we reflect on 2025, we are keenly aware that this has been a demanding and uncertain time for clinical research. The shifting geopolitical climate, rapid technological change, evolving regulatory expectations, and persistent pressures on research, research funding, and the research workforce have tested long-standing assumptions about how trials are designed, conducted, and governed. It is precisely in moments like these that clarity of purpose—and shared commitment—matters most.

This [2025 Year in Review](#) highlights how the MRCT Center has approached this unpredictable environment with a resolute mindset—grounded in rigor, but open to reform. We have often returned to the principle of *fit for purpose*, a term now firmly grounded in Good Clinical Practice, as both a regulatory touchstone and a practical metaphor for our work. Fit-for-purpose asks not for more process, but for the *right* process—proportionate, risk-informed, and responsive to context. That same principle has guided our deliverables in 2025: anticipating emerging challenges, responding nimbly, and focusing our collective efforts where they can most meaningfully strengthen participant protections, data integrity, and trial quality.



Throughout the year, this collaborative spirit informed our focus on innovative trial designs, patient-centered approaches, and strengthening the clinical trial workforce. It guided our efforts to bring new geographic regions into closer alignment with international standards, while respecting local realities. It also shaped our engagement with the accelerating role of artificial intelligence, both in trial design and in the administration of research, where innovation must be balanced with transparency, accountability, and trust. Throughout, we remained deeply attentive to the evolving regulatory and legal landscape, ensuring that ethical ambition and practical feasibility advance in tandem.

What makes this work possible—and meaningful—is the extraordinary community behind it. A broad network of external stakeholders actively engages with the MRCT Center, contributing time, expertise, and perspective to help shape practical, globally relevant tools and guidance. In a year marked by complexity and constraint, your willingness to engage, collaborate across sectors and regions, and wrestle with difficult questions has been both humbling and energizing. We are profoundly grateful for your commitment, insight, and partnership. This is truly shared work.

With deep appreciation,

Barbara Bierer, Mark Barnes, and Sarah White,  
*on behalf of the entire MRCT Center team*