

ARMS 2024 CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Theme: Professional research management as an embedded practice

Title: Let doctors do the doctoring: The power of project management staff in enhancing clinician participant connection

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Abstract:

Operational aspects of a clinical trial are often second priority for time-poor clinicians, whose primary focus and expertise lie elsewhere, and are typically constrained by demanding schedules. Global randomised control trials, like the SNAP (Staphylococcus aureus Network Adaptive Platform) trial, need dedicated research management professionals to ensure study milestones are met aligning with good clinical practice.

A robust research management team is critical to the success of the trial, which aims to recruit 7000 participants including 1000 paediatric participants across multiple countries. The trial's established structure between central and regional management teams provides clinicians with more time to spend with patients - less time worrying about regulatory requirements and governance allows clinicians the capacity to make better medical decisions.

The SNAP Trial is managed by the Peter Doherty Institute and the University of Melbourne, alongside regional management teams. The paediatric aspects of the trial are coordinated by the Telethon Kids Institute (TKI), aiming to include sufficient paediatric participants, that paediatric data can be translated through the final data analyses. SNAP employs several working groups and community groups, which focus on decision-making for the four domains of the trial, and other aspects of the study. In addition to coordinating 20 paediatric sites, TKI manages a number of these groups, supporting consumer and Aboriginal voices, and ensuring paediatric and pregnant participants are represented in the final project data. Building such solid connections are key in finding and acquiring grant funding, for which the SNAP trial has obtained over \$20M AUD to date.