TRAINING

Free-to-Use eLearning Modules

Apart from training and certifying individual EC members, the Dutch Central Committee on Research involving Human Subjects (CCMO) recently added training of investigators to its repertoire.

On December 3, 2012, at the Academic Medical Center Amsterdam, Prof. dr. Marcel Levi opened the eLearning website Onderzoekswijs.nl. "Clinical Research in our country is still standing strong, as compared to other EU countries. The number of trials taking place in the Netherlands this year is even a bit higher as compared to last year," Levi said. Of all trials performed in the Netherlands, more than 40% are categorized as "investigator-initiated," a number which has remained quite stable over the last few years.

The free-to-use modules, that were designed on the basis of frequently asked questions from the field, offer no examination. However, after the instructions, a user may test his/her knowledge gained by answering a few questions, with direct feedback. Currently six themes are covered:

- Do I need to submit my research trial?
- Submitting a trial.
- Multi-center trial.
- Performing a trial.
- SAEs and SUSARs.
- Other applicable laws and regulations.

Four of the six start off with a video fragment. More modules may be added. In principle, the eLearning is intended for those interested/involved in investigator-initiated trials. However, any investigator may benefit from its contents.

CCMO anticipates the eLearning modules will soon be used in the compulsory training by all eight Dutch University Medical Centers.

The website's slogan is "Test and Increase Your Knowledge" with the language used in the eLearning modules being Dutch. Further information can be obtained from ccmo@ccmo.nl.

—Edgar Smeets

DATA ANALYSIS

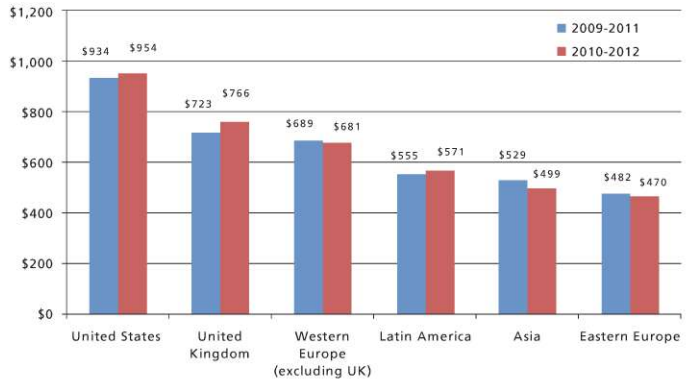
Revisiting Clinical Grant Expenditures

As site costs continue to increase in the more traditional areas for clinical research, a growing number of CRO's and sponsors are using sites in areas such as Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe according to GrantPlan. The demand for less expensive markets have increased as sponsors and CRO's reach toward less expensive regions in which to conduct clinical trials. Lower costs will never be the decisive consideration in selecting a site, however, substantial cost differences are becoming more important in the decision making process.

TTC, now a part of IMS, continues to provide annual current global data on the relative costs of clinical grants around the world using the GrantPlan database. The aggregate GrantPlan subscribers conduct nearly 80% of all commercial clinical trials around the world, with each sponsor company and CRO contributing the current costs of each clinical trial.

This year, the data shows the United States and the United Kingdom continues to be the most expensive countries for clinical grants. With low single digit growth in the established geographies, grant costs seem to have stabilized. Despite the increased demand, the newer geographies have experienced a slight decrease in the costs per visit of approximately 6% in Asia and a minimal increase in Latin America.

—TTC (for more information, please contact help@ttc-llc.com)



Source: TTC

Mean cost per visit in Phase II-III clinical trials.