

Pediatric Insight Recap

Strategies for Building Clinical Research Infrastructure

This Pediatric Insight Conversation focused on needs, approaches and strategies for doing the essential work of clinical research that is crucial to continuously improving patient care and outcomes in pediatrics.

Initial comments focused on the need for a critical assessment of existing infrastructure, personnel and resources upon which to build. Particular emphasis was on having or developing dedicated staff, especially research coordinators and data management experts, to assure quality control and precision of data. The need to share and coordinate such personnel and expertise across divisions within a department was noted as a way to increase efficiency and quality. The benefits of involving the community to assure adequate inclusion and diversity of subjects and to develop trust within the community to have open and in-depth responses were mentioned.

Many comments about the benefits of involvement and relationships with other colleges or schools within the university, such as public health and informatics were made. These included recommendations and examples of success with joint faculty appointments, bidirectional teaching opportunities, utilization of pilot projects to encourage collaborations, and multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches. The mutual benefits of such strategies were exemplified by several commentators. Similarly, using existing regional and national networks to augment departmental or divisional clinical research was noted as a strategy to augment scope and breadth of clinical studies. Such networks often have personnel, such as biostatisticians and epidemiologists, that expand local expertise.

Funding of clinical research was discussed as multifactorial. Because successful clinical research and related publications benefit children's hospitals' reputations, support from hospital clinical revenue is one option for funding. Utilization of local CTSA (Clinical and Translational Science Award) personnel and grants is another substantial method of support. Because families of patients urgently wish for improved outcomes and new therapies, philanthropy and support from (rare) disease foundations for clinical research are often substantial. NIH or PCORI grants and awards, especially for multicenter trials, are a gold standard and available, even for smaller institutions.

Thus, people, interactions, and collaborations within academia and the community are the essential components of building and executing quality clinical, translational, and outcomes research.

Moderator



Arnold (Arnie) W. Strauss, MD

Dr. Strauss is a pediatric cardiologist, Emeritus Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Strauss served as the Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati, Director of the Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation (CCRF), and Chief Medical Officer of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC).

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