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11 July 2024

Dear PCRPP Members,

It has come to the attention of PCRPP the unregulated recruitment practices involving “recruiters” that compromise the safety and well-being of clinical trial participants. This intention may be driven by monetary interest of participants and recruiters alike. On a broader perspective, there is lack of appreciation of the health risks of taking dose/s of an investigational product outside of the strict recommendation of the research protocol and eligibility criteria, and as such, compromises the safety of participants as well as the integrity of the collected trial data.

While the sites and sponsors/CROs have enhanced their monitoring and oversight of the trial over the years, detection of cross-enrolment of participants across sites in the same study or in a different study poses challenges due to various confounding factors such as lack of centralized vaccination record, medical records, and/or trial participant registry. As of present, the issues are shared by participants or individuals with investigators or study staff.

Thus, collectively, we call to and for action among all members, companies, and stakeholders to have heightened vigilance in your respective operations and monitoring of clinical trials especially those that are going to enroll a huge number of patients and participants. While we know that our sites/investigators and delegated clinical research staff are doing their share in ensuring the correct and proper administration of consent and strict eligibility screening of patients and participants, unfortunately, there are trials still that have been infiltrated with “professional” participants and unknowing ill-intention of some recruiters.

PCRPP has positioned itself to take immediate steps and long-range actions to discuss and address the issue on “professional” participants and recruiters in a wider forum of ethics committee, regulators, institutions, and the industry. If you have similar experience and concerns, **PCRPP has opened its Ethics Committee to be the venue for escalation at [pcrpescalation@gmail.com](mailto:pcrpescalation@gmail.com)**. This dedicated account will be under the oversight of the Ethics Chair and currently the BOD, will be inviting PCRPP members and honorary members to become members of the “escalation task force” to review and process the escalation emails that will be received on this platform while also taking into account and simultaneously managing potential conflict of interest (COI) that is inherent to the affiliation of the members of the Ethics Committee and the escalation task force which may arise from participating in this important containment and risk mitigating activity.

Thank you!

Yours truly,  
**PCRPP BOD 2023-2025**