



# Careers in Clinical Research: How can I transition?

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November 8, 2019



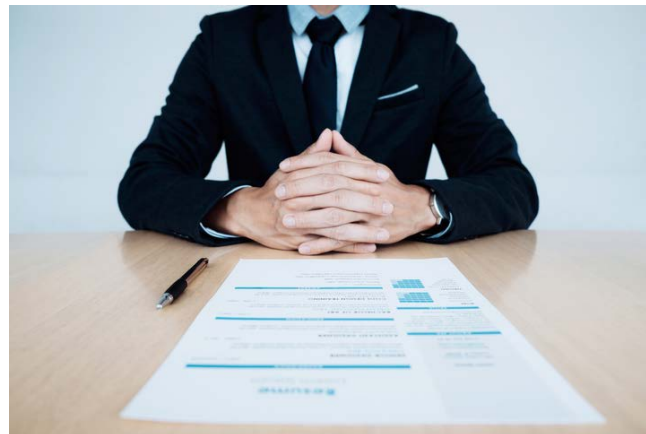
# Learning Objectives



- Overview of clinical research career & education
- Advantages and Disadvantages
- Challenges in Transitioning into the field
- Career Paths
- Resources & training

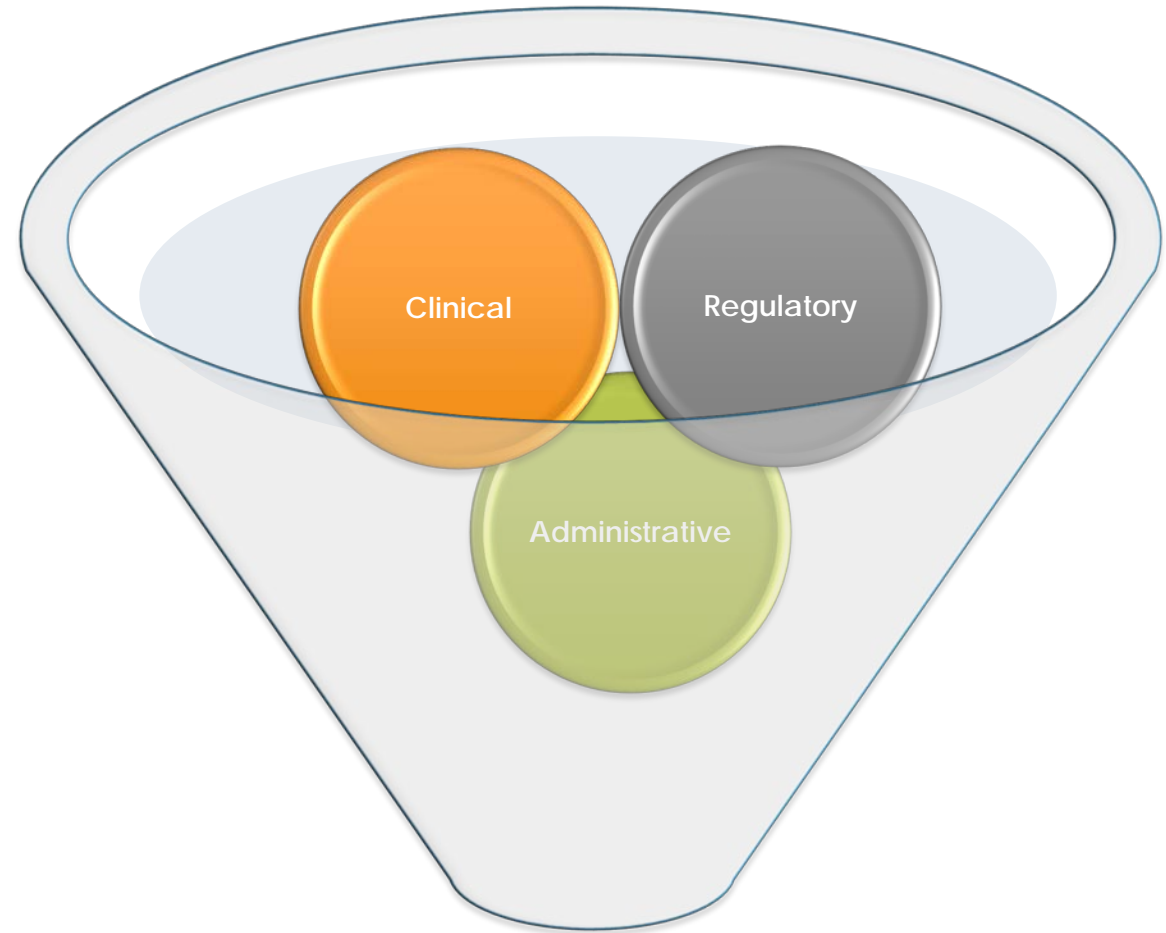
# Clinical Research – Is it a good career?

- ▶ ...is perfect for bright and talented science graduates to start their **career** especially if you have a degree in science, bio-medicine, nursing or pharmacy. ~Google Search, 2019.



# Clinical Research – Career

- Entry- Level
- Experienced
- Expert





# Clinical Research – Career Elements

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- Knowledge
  - Exposure
  - Networking
  - Passion

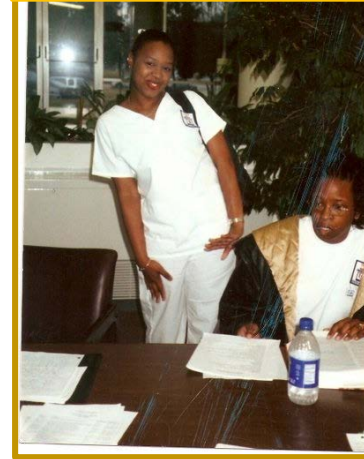
# Clinical Research Career – My Journey

## High School



- Small town
- Military family
- Textile Jobs
- Family hx of Nurses

## College



- Same state; ~250 miles
- Studied Nursing
  - ◆ Psych rotation
- Graduated Psychology -BA
- Work-study jobs
  - ◆ Medicine
  - ◆ Sponsored programs
  - ◆ IRB

- 1<sup>st</sup> Career Job as CRC
- Mayo Clinic
- MBA
- Specialty
  - ◆ Radiology
  - ◆ Cardiology
- Centralized CR Support Team

## Post-Graduate



- Hired experience
- Join professional organizations
- PhD
- Mentorship
- Educate

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Post-Graduate





# Clinical Research Career – Knowledge

- ▶ How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research for ?
  - **Entry level positions:** Intern, In-House CRA, Clinical Trial Assistant, Research Interviewer, Clinical Trial Project Coordinator
    - Minimal contact with participants/patients
    - HS diploma with hospital/administrative experience (3 years); OR Bachelor's degree with hospital/administrative experience (1-2 years)

**Advantage:** Good start for someone out of college. **Disadvantage:** Someone giving you a chance.

\$30K - \$40K per year

# Clinical Research Career – Knowledge

➤ How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research?

- **Experienced positions:** CRA+, Senior/CRC+, CRN+, Fellow
  - More than minimal contact with participants/patients, if applicable
  - Bachelor's degree with clinical research experience (1-5 years); OR Master's degree preferred with certification

**Advantage:** Setting career goals & moving up. **Disadvantage:** Can take long to advance up.

\$50K - \$70K per year



# Clinical Research Career – Knowledge

➤ How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research?

- **Expert positions:** Investigator, Leadership Roles (Manager, Director)
  - Contact with participants/patients, if applicable
  - Master's degree with clinical research experience (5+ years); OR Doctoral degree preferred/must with certification

**Advantage:** Feel accomplished & knowledgeable. **Disadvantage:** Career pigeon hole.

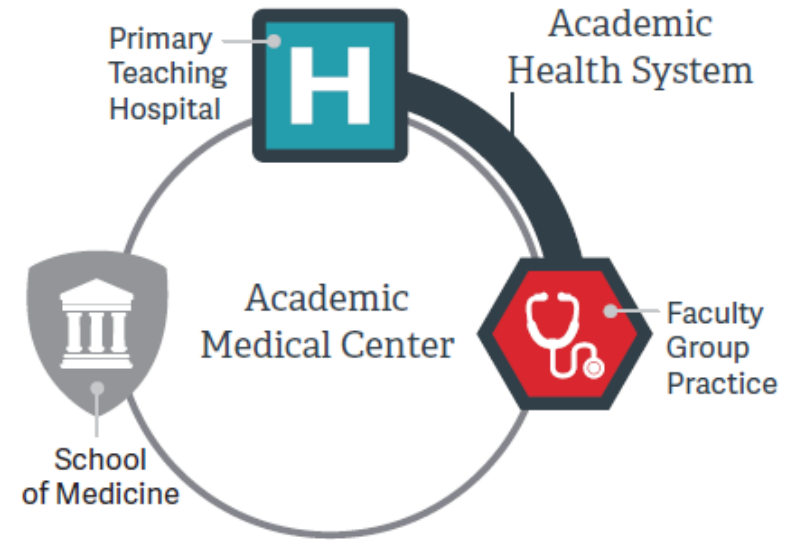
\$80 – or higher per year



# Clinical Research Career – Knowledge

- ▶ How many years of education do you need to get a job in clinical research?
  - **Other Specialty Positions:** IRB Specialist/Analyst, Proposal/Grant Analyst, Financial Manager, Biostatistician, Data Manager, Quality Management, Educator, Phlebotomist, Auditor
    - Minimal contact with participants/patients
    - Bachelors degree, but Master's preferred
    - May not require clinical research experience (5+ years); certifications do help (i.e. Project Management)

# Clinical Research Career – Exposure



# Clinical Research Career – Networking



Communication





# Clinical Research Career – Passion

*Allow your* **passion**  
*to become your*  
**purpose,**  
*and it will one day become your*  
**PROFESSION.**

--Gabrielle Bernstein

The Solution:

“You don’t hire for skills,  
you hire for attitude.  
You can always teach  
skills.”

– *Herb Kelleher*

# Clinical Research Career – Resources & Training

- Find what interests you 1<sup>st</sup> – Administrative, Clinical, or Regulatory.

*Don't know your interest?*

Volunteer or Observe a course in clinical research

- **Do you have the education?**  
(i.e. Degrees and certifications)
- **Do you know someone in the field?**  
(i.e. LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook – who do you know and who knows you?)
- **What professional organizations have you joined?**  
(i.e. PMI, ACRP, SOCRA, RAPS, HCCA)
- **Do you love it? If yes, learn everything you can!**  
(i.e. Clinical Research Fastrack, Pharma training, CITI, NIH, etc.)



# Thank you!

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