PROMETRIKA 15
CELEBRATING FIFTEEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
NEWSLETTER

Message from our CEO

MIGANUSH STEPANIANS, PH.D.

Welcome to PROMETRIKA's first newsletter.

In this and future issues, I plan to share with you the exciting latest developments at PROMETRIKA.

Thanks to our more than 100 client companies, who look to us for high-quality services, PROMETRIKA is at an exciting stage in its history. This year, we celebrate 15 years of collaboration with sponsors in clinical trial execution, data acquisition and management, statistical analyses, and regulatory document production, resulting in successful trials and submissions. Within the past year, we have had a 32% increase in overall company size. While about half the new team members are biostatisticians and statistical programmers, we have also hired dynamic leaders and subject matter experts in some key departments, including Head of Clinical Operations, Heather Paden; Director of Data Management, Cathy Hult; Associate Director of Statistical Programming and CDISC subject matter expert, Susan Boquist; Head of Quality Systems, Rick Martin; and Head of Human Resources, Mary Morris.

I am thrilled to report that, in the last two years, PROMETRIKA collaborated with sponsors in the successful submissions of three NDAs in rare cancer, renal disease, and neurological indications. Submission for approval of a new treatment is a major milestone in a company's clinical research plan, and we are honored that PROMETRIKA was entrusted with these most critical projects for sponsors. I am also proud of our new full-service collaborations that have started within the past two years, including but not limited to two important oncology studies with MD Anderson Cancer Center Institute of Applied Cancer Science, and a new study with AbFero Pharmaceuticals. Finally, I am excited about the technological advances undertaken by our expert Database Programming and Data Management team, including our successful adoption of Medidata's RaveX and Coder.

PROMETRIKA Poised for Efficient Monitoring

What monitoring methods best benefit the conduct of rare disease trials? Expensive and time-consuming, traditional on-site monitoring and source data verification do not provide the best real-time view of the data collected in a study. The June 2017 revision to the ICH guideline governing monitoring, ICH E6 [R2] 5.18.3, encourages newer methods, like remote and central monitoring. Technological advances, such as the use of wearable devices and electronic data capture (EDC), allow a real-time view of data and lend themselves to central trial monitoring. PROMETRIKA's expertise with wearable devices and EDC can help sponsors realize their plans for implementing newer, more efficient monitoring methods.

PROMETRIKA to Partner with AbFero Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

PROMETRIKA is proud to announce that we will be partnering with AbFero, providing worldwide full-service support for their phase 2 study for the treatment of transfusion-related iron overload due to β-thalassemia, a disease that requires approximately 100,000 persons worldwide to receive regular transfusions. AbFero is an early-stage pharmaceutical company developing iron-binding molecules, or chelators, for the treatment of iron overload due to β-thalassemia, sickle-cell disease, and myelodysplastic syndrome. Future treatment targets include conditions affecting the retina, brain, kidney, and heart.

READY WITH RAVEX

Under the leadership of Senior Implementation Specialist, Dena Hughes, PROMETRIKA's Data Management and Database Programming teams have successfully released our first database build using Medidata's RaveX, which boasts an improved user interface (UI) and streamlined system administration. The knowledge we have gained through direct experience in implementing RaveX, and its Cloud Administration component, allows PROMETRIKA to provide expert support to sponsors using RaveX. While successfully navigating the RaveX waters, PROMETRIKA has developed a standard set of re-usable processes and procedures for Cloud Administration, leading to reduced time and effort in implementing this component of RaveX. Dena, whose experience spans 15 years of designing and building databases in Rave, admits that the transition to RaveX took some work, but notes that benefits like faster, cleaner data entry, and simplified visual cues, were well worth the effort.

PROMETRIKA STATISTICIAN PART OF RESEARCH GROUP

PROMETRIKA Biostatistician/Statistical Programmer, Amarachi Umez-Eronini, has coauthored an article: Steen DL, Umez-Eronini AA, Guo J, Khan N, Cannon CP. The effect of fasting status on lipids, lipoproteins, and inflammatory biomarkers assessed after hospitalization for an acute coronary syndrome: Insights from PROVE IT-TIMI 22. Clin Cardiol. 2018;41:68-73. https://doi.org/10.1002/clc.22851.

The research was in response to recent clinical guidelines that eliminate the requirement for patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS) to fast before providing blood samples for lipid testing. The group tested the recommendation on data provided by the Pravastatin or Atorvastatin Evaluation and Infection Therapy-Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction 22 (PROVE-IT-TIMI 22) trial.

The results show that prior fasting had a minimal impact on the lipid profile, supporting removal of the requirement for prior routine fasting. Advantages of removing the requirement include lessening the burden of testing and decreasing the large bolus of morning tests in the laboratory. Congratulations to Amarachi and her team for their work in support of clinical care. To read Amarachi's Thought Leadership message, see: http://www.prometrika.com/blog/2018/05/30/must-fast-lipid-measurements

SUBMISSION-READY DATA

Under the leadership of Susan Boquist, Associate Director, Statistical Programming, who has over 20 years of diverse experience in clinical database design and management, and statistical programming, PROMETRIKA has assembled a team of highly experienced CDISC SDTM mapping experts. The team's mission is to produce high quality, submission-ready CDISC datasets, and the associated documentation, for the US FDA and regulatory bodies worldwide.

For more than 12 years, Susan, who is a member of the CDISC Advisory Council, has helped sponsors implement CDISC standards and meet regulatory requirements for clinical trial data submission. With experience across a multitude of indications, our team have complementary specialties and work together cohesively to process data, from EDC extraction through SDTM and ADaM mapping, culminating in the Tables, Listings, and Figures for a Clinical Study Report.

PROMETRIKA, a Platinum CDISC member, provides CDISC training to all of its Statistical Programming employees. PROMETRIKA has team members on the ADaM SDS team and actively presents at industry conferences such as MassBio, PharmaSUG and CDISC International Interchange. PROMETRIKA's combined experience spans several decades, with hundreds of mapped studies and many successful US FDA and rest-of-world regulatory authority submissions.

mHEALTH STRATEGIES FOR RARE DISEASE STUDIES

Kathy Zheng, Manager of Project Management and Clinical Innovations, has guided some of PROMETRIKA's sponsors in the selection and use of mobile health (mHealth) technologies in their trials. Sponsors who specialize in treatments for rare diseases face a number of unique challenges. The implementation of an mHealth strategy within their clinical trials is one of those challenges. In many ways, rare disease companies have an even greater appetite for new technologies that improve the patient's trial experience. Rare disease researchers face increasing pressure from regulatory agencies, investors, and a vocal patient population, to innovate in an effort to expedite the drug development process. The small number of rare disease patients also magnifies the need for an efficient and accurate data collection process. However, with those motivations, and the enthusiasm for mHealth solutions, come a host of implementation challenges.

As Kathy has learned through working with sponsors, the adoption of a cohesive mHealth strategy within a company usually requires a significant investment of resources and time, especially during the planning stages of clinical trials. Another challenge is the availability of validated ePRO endpoints for rare diseases. Electronic patient-reported outcomes (ePRO), and other mHealth solutions, can provide novel endpoints. The use of wearables or other mHealth technologies may be viewed as an opportunity for the development and expansion of the repertoire of accepted endpoints for an indication. Kathy's knowledge of mHealth solutions and her work with sponsors seeking these tools has given PROMETRIKA the opportunity to be part of this exciting new area of trial operations.

What Makes a Successful Regulatory Submission?

Comprehensive experience in New Drug Applications (NDAs) is rare, even among researchers who have successfully advanced development programs to late-stage clinical trials. At PROMETRIKA, our team has worked on 15 NDAs. Within the past two years, we have helped three sponsors successfully submit their NDAs. In collaboration with these sponsors, we have produced Integrated Summaries of Safety and Efficacy, and the Statistical Analysis Plans guiding those, Clinical Summaries, and submission-ready CDISC-compliant SDTM and ADaM datasets, for rare cancer, renal disease, and neurological indications.

Successful submissions require highly-specialized statistical analyses of integrated safety data, meta-analyses of efficacy data, and expert medical writing, to support optimal strategies in positioning and presenting clinical research results in submission materials. A submission's success rests on the commitment and expertise of our statisticians and medical writers, and the skilled coordination of our project managers.

Nicole LaVallee, PhD, Director of Biostatistics; and Alex Rohall, Senior Manager of Medical Writing, expanded on PROMETRIKA's contribution to these overlapping submission efforts. "The sponsors of these submissions really appreciated our team's flexibility," said Nicole. Alex added, "Working with a sponsor on a submission requires close collaboration. Creating submission documents in this collegial atmosphere ensures succinct, high-quality submissions."

AT DIA...

Cathy Hult, Director, Data Management and Diane Siegel, Principal Clinical Data Manager, presented at the Medidata Pavillion at DIA 2018, **June 25-28, 2018, Boston, MA**. Cathy spoke about migration to Rave Coder and Diane related experiences with upgrading to RaveX.

AT AMWA...

Alex Rohall, Senior Manager, Medical Writing and Christine Quagan, Senior Medical Writer, will present, *"From Protocol to Package Insert – A Data Journey"* and will host two round table discussions at the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) national conference, **November 1-3, 2018, Washington, DC.**