



Dear VA Clinical Trials Stakeholders:

With Summer well underway, we hope that you are taking advantage of the warm weather (or staying as cool as possible)! While this time of year is often filled with vacation plans, and a desire to get a little “down time”, we are continuing to move ahead with our goals and plans and wanted to provide a summary of the actions that have taken place since our June update.

1. On June 20th, we held the promised webinar hosted by Dr. Rachel Ramoni, VA's Chief Research and Development Officer. The webinar was in follow-up to our April Summit and served as an opportunity to present and discuss more information about the identified top five priorities for improving trial initiation activities. Participants provided feedback and some stakeholders volunteered for the workgroups that will help achieve goals for the priorities. The recording is now available at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7227644474788591368>.
2. The Steering Committee held a meeting in late June to discuss workgroup membership- taking into consideration those who had volunteered to serve, while working to ensure adequate representation from various stakeholder groups. We want to thank those who have stepped up. However, there is still a need for people to help with these work groups. While several industry stakeholders have volunteered to participate, it was noted that VA investigator, facility level leadership, and non-profit corporation (NPC) representation was limited. Therefore, the Steering Committee will be engaging additional participation from these stakeholders. We hope that the groups can be finalized at the end of this month and that organizational and “kick off” activities can begin soon afterwards.
3. Given the increased interest in the initiative, we are also placing an emphasis on communications. A summary document explaining the history and rationale for the initiative was created. This document can be shared with colleagues interested in learning more about the initiative. A copy is attached.
4. We also recognize the importance of having a single reference point for those of you currently engaged, as well as those who may join us in the future. Therefore, we are in the preliminary stages of designing a website that will not only provide basic information and updates relative to the initiative, but will also provide key contacts and information for those looking to conduct an industry sponsored multisite trial within VA. The website is expected to be live in late Summer/early Fall.
5. Members of the Steering Committee are continuing to engage various offices and individuals within VA to ensure relevant personnel are aware of the initiative and given the opportunity to contribute. Within VA, we have been in contact with the Office of Specialty Care Services and the Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships. Information on these efforts will also be communicated on the Office of Research and Development's July national call with the VA field research offices.

In closing, we want to again express our appreciation for your dedication to this effort. Please continue to share the work being done with others. Anyone interested in being added to our distribution list, or participating in one of the workgroups should contact Krissa Caroff, Program Coordinator by email at clinicaltrials@navref.org. Any questions or comments can also be sent using the same email address.

Thank you.

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