A Look Ahead:
Clinical Trials and PV Over the Next 5 Years

While key investments of our leading delegates are a useful indicator of what is most important to industry professionals both now and in the immediate future, their scope and importance only extends so far ahead. To look further - to the next five years in Clinical Trials and PV, for instance - Proventa asked its facilitators about their expectations for the near future, and how the field will have changed in the run-up to 2025.

CLINICALOPERATIONS
CLINICALTRIALSUPPLYCHAIN
PHARMACOVIGILANCE

COVID-19 and Safety (remote monitoring)

One delegate, a chief science officer at a leading company, noted that safety issues are some of the most important today. They noted that even after the vaccines for the current pandemic are approved, the situation will never be as it was before. Because of this, they advocated remote clinical monitoring as an important aspect of clinical studies right now, due to vitally increasing safety and increasing clinical trial efficiency.

Catherynne Cruz-Scheckner, Director Clinical Supplies at Ionis Pharma, also advocated for increased remote trials. She noted that both telemedicine and remote visits are gaining greater importance and relevance right now, and that it would be likely they persist beyond that given their effectiveness and convenience, and that hopefully the coming years will see more user-friendly technologies patients can use for such decentralised visits.

Despite the importance of safety in the post-Covid world, the CFO also noted that speed for roll-out of new COVID-19 vaccines was something suffering from a certain degree of hype at present.

Efficiencies and Costs

The CFO noted the importance of increasing efficiencies in the near future, as there is an increasing sense of urgency to get new drugs to market.

Jessica Raiz, Senior Director Clinical Operations at Timber Pharma, on the other hand, thought that while there are always new technologies for streamlining data, merging information and creating other efficiencies, they would not soon be revolutionising the field: “Trials have largely run the same for years and due to the complex nature of trials globally. Any shift from the normal paradigm is highly unlikely- it’s just too risky, and many in the industry and at the site level are hesitant to stray too far from what they know.” She did, however, note costs as a major problem today, and one which would hopefully improve in the future.

AI

The CFO pointed out AI as one of the most promising aspects of current drug development: “Digital integration of clinical trial data can feed into the trend that may revolutionize new medicines”. Catherynne Cruz-Scheckner agreed with this, noting that “AI will be revolutionary”. She said that apps, on the other hand, have yet to live up to their promise, and could well be an example of industry hype.

Patient Recruitment/ Identification

Jessica Raiz noted that patient recruitment and identification are some of the most important aspects of clinical trials right now, as one of the biggest challenges facing professionals. This would continue to be the case over the next five years, she thought, though potentially with the trend towards less burdensome trials this could eventually be solved.