

CRM TRIAL CONNECT 2025

NEWSLETTER

PRE-CONFERENCE



CRM-PMCC Mission of Excellence

The partnership with Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PMCC) had another successful run, with the conduct of the 1-day Early Phase Excellence training program, led by three team members from PMCC (Jennifer Li, Horace Wong & Anthony Msan). Involving 30 participants from CRM, Sunway Medical Centre (SMC), Ampang Hospital & University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), the program syllabus focused on safety, risk management and quality conduct of early phase trials, sharing the lens of trial conduct in one of the top global cancer research centres.

During their visit to Malaysia, the PMCC team also had the opportunity to visit SMC & UMMC trial facility, engaging with the team members there, to share best practices between institutions.

Oncology Workshop

The CRM-ATLAS duo returns, this time with co-organising a 2-day oncology workshop for investigators to develop their research ideas to sound and structured proposals. Boasting a robust faculty of ATLAS members and Malaysian researchers, the workshop had participating oncology researchers from institutions in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam & Taiwan. With Dr Mitsumi Terada (National Cancer Centre Japan) as the lead facilitator, the workshop covered various aspects such as trial design, biostatistics and even funding. The group discussion provided essential insights and feedback for the participants to improve on their proposal.



Better Together: CRM-IQVIA Training

What makes a successful collaboration? This was explored in depth during the Better Together training, jointly organised by IQVIA & CRM. With over 220 CRM Study Coordinators (SCs) & IQVIA Clinical Research Associates (CRAs) participating, lead trainer Tim Bray (ViRB) conducted activities that explored different individual styles and navigating this towards achieving a common goal. The SC-CRA is truly a winning combo behind a great study delivery, and this training further emphasized the essence behind this.



Malaysia Phase 1 Guidelines Workshop

There have been many developments in the early phase ecosystem in the nation ever since the launch of the Malaysia's Phase 1 Guidelines in 2017. Factoring this, CRM organised a half-day workshop, bring together the relevant stakeholders to discuss on the updates for the guidelines.

Originally adapted from the 2012 Phase 1 Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Guidelines, the Malaysia Phase 1 Guidelines sets the foundation to the First-in-Human (FIH) landscape in Malaysia, and the primary outcome from CRM's Phase 1 Realisation Project.

With members from working committee from Ethics Committees, National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority, FIH Scientific Review Panel and FIH trials sites team, the guidelines were reviewed in detail, factoring the updated ABPI guidelines and the regulatory developments for FIH in Malaysia.

Stay tuned for the updated Malaysia Phase 1 Guidelines, slated to be launched later this year!



FIH SRP – MREC Meeting

The First-in-Human Scientific Review Panel (FIH SRP) held a touch-base meeting with Medical Research Ethics Committee (MREC), the first since FIH SRP's establishment in 2018. Chaired by Prof Abdul Rashid Rahman (Chairman of FIH SRP), the discussion was focused on the FIH studies that were jointly reviewed by both committees, looking into relevant review timelines, processes as well as dossier requirements. The discussion provided important insights to further ensure continuous review of FIH studies.



REACTA Board Meeting

CRM hosted its very first in-person REACTA Board Meeting, welcoming REACTA Board Members from Chiba University Hospital (Japan), Chung-Shan Medical University Hospital (Taiwan), Dong-A University Hospital (South Korea) & Taipei Medical University (Taiwan). The discussions were focused on future directions of REACTA as well as collaborative research opportunities.

[Learn More about REACTA on its website](#)



ATLAS Board Meeting

The ATLAS Board Meeting is back as CRM Trial Connect 2025 pre-conference program, gathering relevant oncology research experts from institutions in Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam and others. The meet shared relevant updates on the ongoing research activities helmed by its members.

OPENING HIGHLIGHTS

A Grand Start to CRM Trial Connect 2025

CRM Trial Connect 2025 officially launched with a memorable Opening Ceremony graced by the Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, and the Minister of Health, YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad. The event marked our largest gathering to date, with over 1,000 delegates and more than 190 organisations present. The launch also included an exhibition tour and set the tone for two impactful days of learning, collaboration and growth.



Honouring Champions in Clinical Research

In conjunction with International Clinical Trials Day, the CRM Sponsored Research Awards 2025 celebrated outstanding achievements within Malaysia's clinical research community. From investigators and institutions to industry partners and the media, this year's recipients exemplify dedication, innovation and impact in advancing research nationwide.



Investigator of the Year

Dr. Voon Pei Jye

Medical Oncologist and Head of Hematology and Radiotherapy
Sarawak General Hospital



Investigator of the Year:
Dr Voon Pei Jye

Study Site of the Year

PUSAT PERUBATAN
Medical Centre

University of Malaya Medical Centre



Study Site of the Year:
University of Malaya Medical Centre

Study Site of the Year (MOH)

Sarawak General Hospital



Study Site of the Year (MOH):
Sarawak General Hospital

Contract Research Organisation (CRO) of the Year

IQVIA
IQVIA



CRO of the Year:
IQVIA RDS Malaysia Sdn Bhd

Sponsor of the Year

MSD

Merck Sharp & Dohme



Sponsor of the Year:
Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD)

Media of the Year

Star
MEDIA GROUP
The Star Media



Media of the Year:
The Star Media

Strengthening Partnerships



One of the highlights during the Opening Ceremony was the exchange of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key partners. These MoUs represent CRM's continued commitment to strengthening local and international collaborations, expanding research capabilities and advancing Malaysia's position in the global clinical research landscape.



ASEAN Leadership Forum

This session brought together leaders and experts from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand to explore how Southeast Asia can strengthen its collective impact in clinical research.

Moderated by Dato' Sivakumar Krishnan, the forum tackled shared challenges, celebrated regional progress and emphasised the importance of working together to build a more competitive and resilient research ecosystem.

By aligning efforts across borders, ASEAN continues to pave the way for innovation that meets real regional health needs and ensures broader access to care.



ICR Track & Seminar

The ICR Track offered global and local insights on institutional support, community-driven research and translating evidence into real-world impact. Topics such as first-in-human trials and AI's role in clinical research highlighted Malaysia's evolving capabilities.

Alongside this, the ICR Seminar featured Dr Yvonne Lim Mei Fong & Dr Azahadi Omar, who shared practical guidance on navigating the research grant process. The session provided valuable tips to help researchers develop stronger, more competitive proposals.

The event also celebrated ICR's 25th anniversary — a milestone in advancing investigator-initiated research under the Ministry of Health.

REACTA Forum 2025

Under the theme *"From Protocol to Practice – The Power of Collaboration,"* the REACTA Forum brought together key representatives from Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan.

The session explored how regional partnerships can translate protocols into meaningful, real-world impact. From harmonising clinical practices to accelerating innovation, panellists shared practical insights on how collaboration drives better trial outcomes across borders.

REACTA continues to strengthen Asia's position in global clinical research by championing trust, teamwork and shared progress.



Ethics & Regulatory Sessions

Ethics remains the backbone of all meaningful research. The Ethics Session tackled complex topics including MREC submission improvements and ethical considerations in gene therapy.

In parallel, the Regulatory Session provided essential updates from authorities and industry leaders, focusing on harmonisation and innovation in clinical trial regulation.



ATLAS & ARISE Track

Centred on the theme *"Development of Asia, by Asians, for Asia,"* the ATLAS and ARISE Track showcased the region's growing leadership in clinical research.

Leaders from Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and other countries shared how Asia is forging its own path by building stronger research networks, raising standards and creating solutions rooted in regional needs.

This session was more than a collaboration. It reflected a confident shift where Asia is not just contributing to global research but leading it with clarity, unity and purpose.

Research Collaboration Track



Chaired by Prof Dr Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman, the Research Collaboration Track focused on how partnerships are key to advancing clinical research.



The session highlighted how collaboration — from regional networks to global initiatives — can drive innovation, enhance patient outcomes and shape the future of clinical trials. Speakers shared valuable insights on building trust, aligning goals and working together for greater, long-term impact.



Patient-Centric Conversations

The Patient Engagement Forum at CRM Trial Connect 2025 placed real voices at the heart of clinical research. Held in conjunction with International Clinical Trials Day, the session brought together trial participants, advocates and healthcare professionals for a powerful conversation on trust, empathy and shared understanding.

Moderated by Dr Zulhilmi Paiz, the forum featured stories from Mr Victor Paul Dorai Raj, Ms Staci Tan and Ms Ranjit Kaur Pritam Singh, who spoke candidly about the emotional journey of joining a trial. Discussions addressed public misconceptions, the need for better communication and the value of patient-to-patient advocacy.

The session was a heartfelt reminder that clinical research is not just about data — it is about people, their stories and their courage. It reaffirmed the importance of humanising trials and recognising participants as true partners in advancing science.

CLOSING REMARKS

Closing with Purpose and Vision



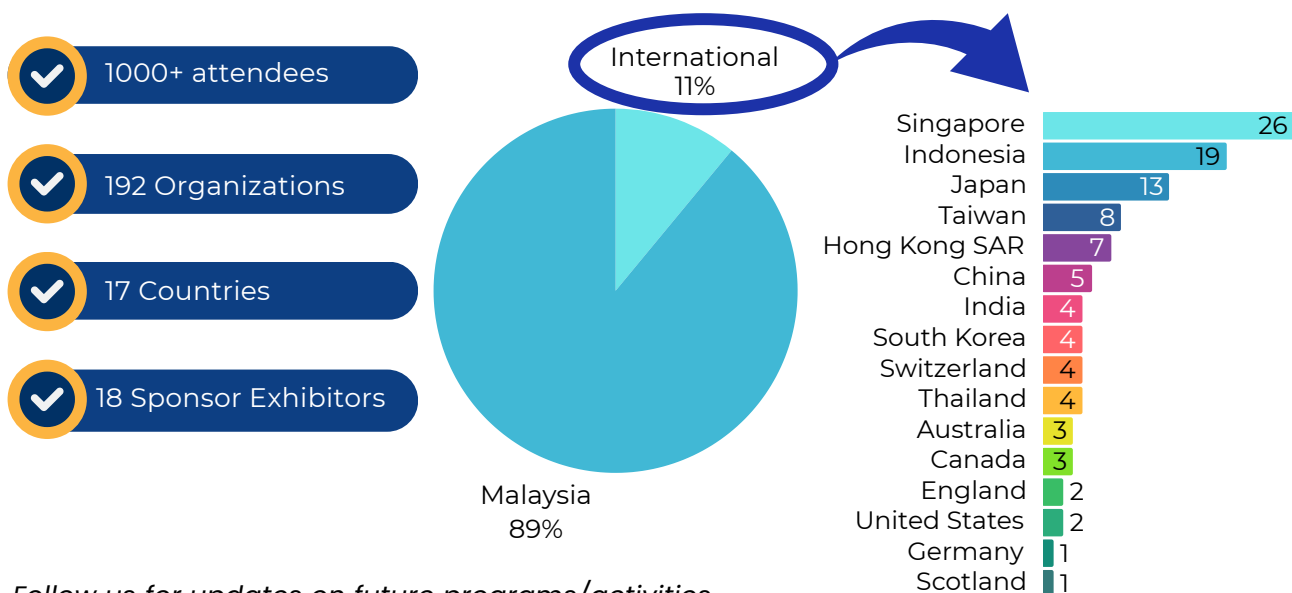
The 2-day CRM Trial Connect 2025 concluded with a closing keynote address by Datuk Dr Nor Fariza Ngah, Deputy Director-General of Health (Research & Technical Support), Ministry of Health Malaysia.

In her speech, she emphasised the importance of continuous collaboration in driving Malaysia's clinical research forward and acknowledged the collective efforts of stakeholders in shaping a globally competitive research ecosystem.

Her address served as a meaningful end to the event, reinforcing shared goals and setting the tone for future engagement among clinical research professionals and partners.



Snapshot of CRM Trial Connect 2025 Participants



Follow us for updates on future programs/activities

