

BY CLINICAL RESEARCH MALAYSIA

CRM Bulletin

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A portrait of Dr. Ng Lock Hock, a middle-aged man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt under a dark suit jacket. He is smiling and standing in front of a blurred background that includes the Malaysian flag.

EYES ON MALAYSIA

**RESEARCH
PERSONALITY:
DR NGU LOCK HOCK**

FEATURED SITE

Sibu Hospital

**RISING STARS
IN NEUROLOGY**



About Clinical Research Malaysia

Clinical Research Malaysia (CRM) is a Global Trusted Research Management Organisation established by the Ministry of Health Malaysia in 2012. The organisation is guided by the principles of Humanity, Stability and Sustainability in providing global clinical trial solutions and enabling a thriving clinical research ecosystem in the country. At its very core, CRM aims to bring clinical research that addresses the unmet needs of patients and transforms health outcomes in Malaysia.

CRM delivers sponsored clinical trials with Speed, Reliability and Quality through operational excellence and working with stakeholders by providing end-to-end clinical research support services. Certified with both ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) and ISO 37001:2016 (Anti-Bribery Management System), and being aligned to international regulations, our core values and code of conduct are ingrained throughout CRM. The strength of this organisation lies in the people of CRM as we strive in our vision to make Malaysia the preferred clinical research hub in Asia.



From The CEO's Desk



Welcome to the 2nd Bulletin issue of 2025.

As we cross the midpoint of the year and stand on the heels of Malaysia's National Day, it is a fitting time to reflect not only on how far our nation has come, but also on the progress we have made together in advancing clinical research. From May to August, we have witnessed meaningful strides, each achievement a reflection of the dedication & collaborative spirit driving Malaysia's clinical research forward. From site development to stakeholder partnerships, the impact of our collective efforts continues to grow in both reach and significance.

In this edition, we are proud to spotlight CRM Trial Connect 2025, our latest initiative officially launched by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, marking a significant leap in patient engagement and clinical trial accessibility. We also recap the 2nd Board of Directors Meeting and feature key engagements, site development efforts and capacity-building initiatives that have taken place over the past four months.

This issue highlights the impactful work of Dr Ngu Lock Hock, Consultant Clinical Geneticist and Paediatrician at Hospital Kuala Lumpur, whose contributions to the field of rare diseases continue to pave the way for future innovation. Our Rising Stars feature puts a spotlight on the field of neurology, while our Featured Site section brings you to Hospital Sibul, showcasing its growing capabilities and commitment to research excellence. We are also pleased to share a glimpse of CRM's mission to China, further strengthening international collaborations that place Malaysia on the global stage.

Here's to the continued journey ahead, fuelled by purpose, powered by passion and inspired by the spirit of independence as we work together to create lasting impact through clinical research.

Dr. Akhmal Yusof
CEO, Clinical Research Malaysia

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2033

VISION

To be the preferred hub
for clinical research in Asia

MISSION



Global Trusted Research
Management Organisation



Clinical Research
Professions Development



Digitalise
Processes

KPI 2023 – 2033



HIGHLIGHTS



Exploring Diagnostic Collaborations with Oncode Scientific

14 May 2025 – Datuk Dr Nor Fariza bt Ngah, Deputy Director General (Research & Technical Support) and CRM CEO Dr Akhmal Yusof visited Oncode Scientific, a CAP-accredited laboratory known for its advanced diagnostic platforms. The discussion centred on potential collaboration with the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), focusing on leveraging local expertise and international standards to support high-quality research across specialised testing areas.



USM Clinches Top Honour at ESTRO 2025 in Vienna

16 May 2025 – Congratulations to Prof. Madya Dr Gokula Kumar Appalanaido and the team from USM for receiving the Top Scoring Abstract Certificate at ESTRO 2025 in Vienna. Their research on the HyBIRT technique for tongue cancer treatment was ranked in the top 5% globally, showcasing Malaysia's growing presence in cutting-edge oncology research and treatment innovation.



Honouring Leadership and Teamwork Behind CRM Trial Connect 2025

21 May 2025 – CRM hosted an appreciation lunch to celebrate the dedicated team behind CRM Trial Connect 2025. The event also paid tribute to YBhg. Datuk Dr. Muhammad Radzi Bin Abu Hassan, Former Director-General of Health and Deputy Chairman of CRM for his steadfast support and leadership over the years. We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes as he embarks on his next chapter.



MiLeS #3 Highlights: Strengthening Data Quality in Clinical Research

23 May 2025 – The 3rd session of Mini Learning Series (MiLeS) wrapped up with a focus on “Data Quality and Query Management”, a vital topic for clinical research excellence. Special thanks to the speakers from Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Afzan and Johnson & Johnson for sharing practical insights from both Study Coordinator and Sponsor perspectives. We're grateful for the enthusiastic participation and look forward to more meaningful learning in the next MiLeS!



Malaysia Strengthens Regulatory & Industry Ties at ICH Day and DIA China 2025

22-25 May 2025 – CRM and NPRA actively participated in ICH Day 2025 and the DIA China Annual Meeting, reinforcing Malaysia's commitment to regulatory harmonisation and its growing presence in global clinical research. At ICH Day, discussions focused on de-risking innovation and progressing towards ICH membership. Meanwhile, at DIA China, CRM highlighted Malaysia's strong value proposition to Chinese stakeholders—engaging with delegates at the Novotech booth and exploring potential investments with MIDA Shanghai. These engagements mark promising steps in expanding Malaysia's reach in industry-sponsored trials and pharmaceutical partnerships across Asia.



Celebrating Completion: Study Coordinator Foundation Training Batch 01/2025

30 May 2025 – After 12 weeks of growth and hands-on learning, Batch 01/2025 has successfully completed the Foundation Training Programme featuring 4 weeks of theory and 8 weeks of practical site attachment at MOH facilities. Thanks to the trainers and site instructors who made this journey impactful. Here's to new beginnings and continued excellence in clinical research!



CRM Represents Malaysia at the 6th ASEAN Health Cluster 3 Meeting

3 June 2025 – The 6th ASEAN Health Cluster 3 (AHC 3) Meeting kicked off with Brunei as the newly appointed Chair. CRM was honoured to represent Malaysia's delegation in person and provided updates on the Malaysia led initiative to expand ASEAN's market in Industry Sponsored Clinical Trials.



TA Guru Session 2/2025: Exploring Haem-Oncology

10 June 2025 – CRM held its 2nd TA Guru session with Dr Boo Yang Liang, who shared valuable clinical insights on Haem-Oncology in Trials with our study coordinators. The session encouraged active learning and engagement, with special thanks to Arfah and Asyikin, CRM's dedicated study coordinators, for their support in making it an interactive experience.



CRM at Penang Research Open Day 2025

11 June 2025 – CRM took part in the Penang Research Open Day at Hospital Seberang Jaya, officiated by Dr Premalosini @ Maria, Deputy Director (Medical) of the Penang State Health Department. Dr Akhmal Yusof shared insights on clinical research progress and future directions, while Ms Audrey spoke on feasibility assessments for Industry-Sponsored Research. With the theme “Unifying Ideas, Nurturing Discoveries,” the event encouraged clinician involvement in research. CRM also set up a booth to engage those interested in entering the field.



Regional Collaboration in Focus: Engagement with Thailand's Ministry of Public Health

13 June 2025 – CRM welcomed a delegation from Thailand's Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), led by Dr Opart Karnkawinpong (Permanent Secretary of MOPH) as part of an engagement coordinated with Novo Nordisk Malaysia & Thailand. The visit focused on Malaysia's success in sponsored clinical research and CRM's role in shaping the ecosystem, supporting Thailand's move to open its doors to clinical trials and advancing the Malaysia-led ASEAN vision for global research competitiveness.



Malaysia in Focus at DIA Global Annual Meeting

15 - 19 June 2025 - NPRA attended the DIA Global Annual Meeting 2025 in Washington DC. The event offered valuable insights on regulatory convergence, reliance mechanisms, AI/ML applications & the use of real-world evidence, highlighting global trends in clinical trials and drug registration. NPRA also showcased Malaysia's achievements through a poster presentation by Ms Fadilah Hasbullah on “A Decade of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Inspection in Malaysia,” sharing trends, operational differences, and areas for compliance improvement. The poster drew strong interest from sponsors and QA representatives, marking a proud moment for Malaysia and reaffirming NPRA's role in advancing regulatory excellence.



NPRA Good Submission Practice Workshop

16 June 2025 – CRM, in collaboration with the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA), hosted a Good Submission Practice Workshop at the CRM Centre of Excellence. The beginner-level session was tailored for industry members new to CTIL/CTX applications, providing practical guidance on submission processes. The workshop encouraged active participation, insightful questions, and meaningful discussions, helping participants strengthen their understanding of regulatory requirements.



Voices, Vision & Progress at National Cancer Congress Malaysia

20-22 June 2025 - CRM was honoured to be part of NCCM 2025, officiated by YB Minister of Health, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad in a collective effort to advance cancer care and research in Malaysia. Dr Akhmal Yusof, CEO of CRM presented updates on Malaysia's oncology clinical trial landscape, while Dr Voon Pei Jye shared insights on emerging immunotherapies. The event also spotlighted the voices of patient advocacy groups, reinforcing the need for inclusive and collaborative cancer research.



Spreading Awareness at CRC IKN's Open Day

23-24 June 2025 - CRM was honoured to be part of CRC's Open Day 2025 through our 2nd I AM AWARE roadshow of the year at the National Cancer Institute (IKN). The 2-day event offered a valuable platform to raise public awareness on clinical research and Industry Sponsored Research (ISR). It also featured a forum moderated by Dr Syafirin Ab Sani, where two clinical trial participants shared their personal journeys. Thank you to CRC IKN for the opportunity to support this meaningful initiative in promoting greater understanding and participation in clinical research.



Patient Recruitment & Retention workshop 3/2025

25 June 2025 - CRM's Patient Recruitment team successfully hosted its 3rd Patient Recruitment & Retention Workshop of the year, bringing together 12 participants from both internal and external stakeholders. The session fostered meaningful discussions and shared valuable insights to strengthen recruitment strategies and enhance patient engagement in clinical research.



Strengthening Voices for the Rare Disease Community

28 June 2025 - CRM was delighted to be part of ACCELERATE 2.0, a programme by the Malaysian Rare Disorders Society (MRDS) committed to strengthening advocacy for the rare disease community. Alongside fellow panellists, CRM contributed to a meaningful discussion on the importance of context, timing & communication in delivering impactful advocacy. We also shared insights on making clinical research more inclusive, accessible & community driven, especially for those living with rare conditions.



Enhancing Site Preparedness: 1st Virtual Inspection Readiness Workshop

30 June 2025 - CRM held its 1st Trial Site Inspection Readiness Workshop virtually, featuring expert insights from Mr Ahmad Izwan and Ms Jacinda Khoo of NPRA. The session covered practical tips on audit preparedness and key updates on the ICH E6(R3) revision, with active participation from site teams across Malaysia.



Engaging Patients in Malaysia's Regulatory Landscape

3 July 2025 - The National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA), in collaboration with CRM, hosted an engagement session with patient support groups & clinical trial participants to discuss the latest regulatory framework on the Sale of Drugs/Investigational Products for Clinical Trials (SODIP). Representatives from various patient organisations shared their experiences, concerns and recommendations to improve access, distribution, and transparency in clinical trials. The dialogue fostered ideas for refining patient-centred processes, underscoring the importance of making patients active partners in shaping Malaysia's research and regulatory landscape.



3rd I AM AWARE Roadshow

8-9 July 2025 - CRM successfully wrapped up its 3rd I AM AWARE Roadshow of the year at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sabah! Held over 2 days, the roadshow provided a meaningful platform to engage with the public and raise awareness about the value and importance of clinical research. We're proud to play our role in promoting understanding and encouraging participation in clinical research across Malaysia.



Nurturing New Talents in Sponsored Research

10 July 2025 - CRM successfully held the 3rd Nurturing New Talents in Sponsored Research seminar at Hospital Queen Elizabeth on. The session featured insightful sharing by Datuk Dr Soon Ruey, Sessional Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah & Ms Izatulshima Yahya, Senior Clinical Project Specialist - Quality at CMIC. The seminar aimed to inspire and support healthcare professionals in their journey towards becoming clinical investigators or study team members.



Strengthening Clinical Research in Sarawak

15 July 2025 - CRM was honoured to join a courtesy visit to Deputy Premier YB Datuk Amar Professor Dr Sim Kui Hian, whose visionary leadership has played a key role in Sarawak's clinical research progress. With 195 active trials across SGH, Sibü and Miri, and 8 global oncology drugs having trial footprints at SGH, Sarawak is emerging as a strong research hub. CRM is also working with Cozy Sq CEO Mr. Derrick Toh to explore team expansion efforts at SGH to support the increasing trial activity. A big thank you to the CRC Sarawak General Hospital team for their continued commitment.



MiLeS: Managing Protocol Deviation

16 July 2025 - The latest MiLeS session focused on Managing Protocol Deviation, featuring Nurul Asyikin Binti Abdul Razak, Senior Executive, Quality & Integrity, and Muhammad Khairulazmir Bin Naip, Study Coordinator Level 1, from CRM's Clinical Operations team. They shared strategies for identifying, documenting, and addressing protocol deviations, while offering insights on regulatory expectations and compliance best practices. The session underscored the importance of robust processes to uphold research quality, protect patient safety, and maintain data integrity in clinical trials.



2nd Board of Directors Meeting of 2025

21 July 2025 - CRM concluded its 2nd Board of Directors (BOD) meeting for 2025. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to YB Datuk Seri Dr Haji Dzulkefly Ahmad and all board members for their continued support and guidance. As we mark the year's midpoint, the meeting provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on our progress and reaffirm our strategic direction. Discussions focused on strengthening Malaysia's clinical research landscape, guided by CRM's core values of Humanity, Stability, and Sustainability.



MREC Good Submission Practice Workshop

24 July 2025 - CRM in collaboration with MREC, successfully conducted the MREC Good Submission Practice Workshop, a productive session featuring step-by-step guidance on NMRR registration, a walkthrough of the MREC submission process & an engaging Q&A addressing common challenges. Special thanks to Dr Lee Keng Yee & Puan Kasturi Manoharan for their valuable insights, and to all industry members who participated. We look forward to more knowledge-sharing sessions ahead!



Good Clinical Practice Refresher Workshop 2/25

29 July 2025 – CRM conducted its 2nd GCP Refresher Workshop for 2025 at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan (HTAA), Kuantan. The session brought together engaged participants committed to upholding Good Clinical Practice standards in their research activities.



3rd Malaysia Japan Symposium on Pharmaceutical Regulatory System

31 July 2025 – At the 3rd Malaysia-Japan Symposium on Pharmaceutical Regulatory System, discussions focused on harmonisation in Real-World Evidence, Risk Management Plans, Facilitated Registration, and clinical trials between NPRA and Japan's PMDA. CRM was honoured to join the panel, highlighting Malaysia's strong regulatory framework, efficient NPRA support, and conducive ecosystem that position the country as a reliable partner in Multi-Regional Clinical Trials, including confirmatory studies.



Strengthening Ties with Japan's PMDA and NCC

5 August 2025 – CRM welcomed a distinguished delegation from Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA), led by Dr Emiko Kondo, Senior Executive Director of PMDA, and Dr Jun Kitahara, Head of the PMDA Asia Office, together with representatives from the National Cancer Center (NCC). The visit provided a platform to exchange insights on advancing clinical trials, explore avenues for collaboration through CRM Trial Connect, and reinforce regional cooperation in regulatory science and research capacity-building.



MREC Audit at Sarawak General Hospital

8 August 2025 – The MREC Compliance Review at Sarawak General Hospital (SGH) was a key step in ensuring safe and ethical conduct of First-in-Human (FIH) trials. With active FIH studies at SGH, the audit assessed study operations for compliance with Good Clinical Practice. Special thanks to Dr Ami Fazlin and Prof Zahurin for representing the FIH Scientific Review Panel (SRP) in this important review.



TA Guru Session 3/2025 – Nephrology in Clinical Trials

15 August 2025 - CRM successfully held its 3rd TA Guru session of 2025, featuring Dr Mohd Kamil Ahmad, Consultant Nephrologist at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan Kuantan. His insightful sharing on nephrology in clinical trials provided participants with eye-opening, practical perspectives that enriched their understanding of this therapeutic area. Special thanks to Izzah Atira & Liyana from HTAA for their seamless coordination and support and to all our enthusiastic study coordinators for your active participation and curiosity throughout the session.



Malaysian Thoracic Society Annual Congress 2025

15-17 August 2025 - CRM was honoured to be part of the delegates at the Malaysian Thoracic Society Annual Congress 2025. The congress provided an inspiring platform to connect with key stakeholders, exchange knowledge, and gain valuable insights on the future of respiratory medicine, reinforcing our shared commitment to advancing clinical practice for better healthcare.



Wacana #CSM “Aku Ingin Hidup”

18 Aug 2025 - As part of CRM’s commitment to patient awareness, we joined Wacana #CSM “Aku Ingin Hidup”, organised by Cancer Survivors Malaysia at Bangi Resort Hotel. The event gathered over 500 participants, including cancer survivors, medical experts & healthcare advocates to inspire hope and empower communities with knowledge. CRM joined with an exhibition booth & a speaking session by Siti Khadijah, Senior Corporate Communication, highlighting the role of clinical trials in advancing cancer care. CRM remains committed to raising awareness and expanding access to clinical trials for the benefit of patients and society.



PRPs Gain First-Hand Exposure in Clinical Research

18-22 August 2025 - Five Provisionally Registered Pharmacists (PRPs) completed their site attachment with CRM, gaining valuable exposure to the operations of clinical trial sites. Throughout the programme, the PRPs observed how pharmacists and study teams contribute to trial implementation, from managing study procedures to supporting site coordination. The attachment was guided by experienced trainers & site instructors from Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar (HTJ) Seremban and Institut Kanser Negara (IKN) Putrajaya, who provided practical insights into the role of pharmacists in advancing clinical research.



ASEAN AI Summit Malaysia 2025

19 August 2025 – CRM participated in the inaugural ASEAN AI Summit Malaysia 2025 at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur, which brought together policymakers, industry leaders & researchers to explore AI innovations and policy progress across ASEAN. Together with the Institute for Clinical Research (ICR), CRM showcased initiatives at the exhibition booth, engaging attendees on clinical trials, AI-driven research, and collaboration opportunities. The summit highlighted how AI can drive scalable and impactful solutions, including in healthcare and clinical research.



Sabah Research Day

20 August 2025 – CRM participated in the Sabah Research Day at Hospital Queen Elizabeth, themed “Transforming Healthcare Through AI and Patient-Centered Innovation.” The event highlighted Malaysia’s growing role in advancing innovative approaches to healthcare & clinical research. CRM contributed through a talk on the Local Care Model (LCM) & engaged clinicians via its booth, strengthening awareness and interest in clinical research.



Strengthening Ties with Novo Nordisk Malaysia

26 August 2025 – CRM was warmly welcomed by the Novo Nordisk Malaysia team at their Kuala Lumpur office. As the newest Clinical Development Centre since 2024, managing trial operations across Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, Novo Nordisk shared on their work in diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, rare diseases & obesity. With one of the highest annual patient recruitment rates in Malaysia, their efforts continue to expand access to innovative therapies for patients with unmet needs.



BFM Health & Living Podcast: How Global Clinical Trials Began in Malaysia

27 August 2025 – CRM was on air with BFM’s Health & Living podcast, where Dr Akhmal Yusof and Prof Chim C. Lang shared how clinical trials first took root in Malaysia and the milestones along the way. They shared early challenges, key milestones, and how the country is shaping its role in advancing access to innovative therapies.

IN THE NEWS

CRM Trial Connect 2025



Kuala Lumpur, 8 - 9 May 2025 - The 4th annual CRM Trial Connect 2025 was a resounding success, marking our largest gathering to date. Officiated by the Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the Minister of Health, YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, the event brought together more than 1,000 delegates & over 190 organisations, including new collaborators from the National Cancer Center Japan, ATLAS Project Team, Regional Asian Clinical Trial Association (REACTA), and University Malaya Medical Centre. The week began with insightful pre-conference programmes, leading into two full days of impactful sessions featuring forums, parallel tracks, regulatory updates, the ICR seminar, research collaborations, patient engagement, and industry-sponsored sessions. An exhibition tour during the Opening Ceremony set the tone for vibrant knowledge exchange and networking.

In conjunction with International Clinical Trials Day, the CRM Sponsored Research Awards 2025 celebrated excellence within Malaysia's clinical research community honouring investigators, institutions, industry partners, and media who have driven innovation and impact.

Recipients of CRM Sponsored Research Awards 2025

- **Investigator of the Year Award:** Dr Voon Pei Jye (Sarawak General Hospital) for having recorded the highest number of new sponsored research in 2024 and significant accomplishments in early phase research
- **Top Study Site (MOH) Award:** Sarawak General Hospital for being among top MOH sites in number of studies awarded in 2024.

- **Top Study Site (Overall) Award:** University of Malaya Medical Centre for having highest number of new sponsored studies overall in 2024.
- **Sponsor of the Year Award:** Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) for contributing highest study contract value in 2024 and among high contributors in number of new sponsored research in 2024.
- **CRO of the Year Award:** IQVIA RDS Malaysia Sdn Bhd for contracting highest number of studies in 2024.
- **Media of the Year Award:** The Star Media for increasing public awareness about clinical trials through several articles published in 2024

A key highlight of the event also included the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with strategic partners, reinforcing CRM's mission to strengthen collaborations, expand research capabilities, and solidify Malaysia's standing as a competitive destination for global clinical trials.

**Want to dive deeper?
Scan the QR code to
read the full coverage
of CRM Trial Connect
2025, featuring
detailed recaps of
tracks, forums and
special highlights.**



SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Building Bridges through Strategic Alliances



From May to August, CRM achieved remarkable progress by sealing multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) within just 4 months. These strategic partnerships reflect the growing trust in Malaysia's clinical research ecosystem and the shared commitment of both local and international stakeholders.

One of the key highlights of CRM Trial Connect 2025 was the signing of MoUs with Kyushu University Hospital, Gilead Sciences and BP Healthcare. These collaborations underscore CRM's mission to strengthen local and international partnerships, expand research capabilities, and elevate Malaysia's role in the global clinical research landscape.



Beyond Trial Connect, CRM continued to broaden its strategic alliances. An MoU with PPD, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific, was signed in conjunction with the inauguration of Thermo Fisher's new office in Shah Alam, formalising joint efforts to expand sponsored clinical trials in Malaysia and build capability development.

CRM also partnered with Universiti Malaya and the Centre for Affordable Diagnostics & Therapeutics (CADT) to establish the International Affordable Diagnostics & Therapeutics Alliance (IA-DATA). This initiative is dedicated to equitable access to healthcare solutions through affordability, innovative technologies, and stronger regional collaboration.

In addition, CRM deepened regional and international ties with the signing of an MoU with Shionogi, opening new opportunities for impactful research collaborations with the Japanese biotech. Together, these alliances mark a significant step forward in strengthening collaborations, enhancing capabilities, and expanding opportunities to advance clinical research for the benefit of patients worldwide.

Expanding Horizons: CRM's Mission in China



Clinical Research Malaysia (CRM) strengthened its presence in China through a series of strategic engagements in Shanghai and Hangzhou aimed at expanding clinical research collaborations and attracting China-based pharmaceutical companies to Malaysia.

The visit began with the formalisation of CRM's partnership with the Clinical Service Centre, marked by a signing ceremony between Dr Hualong Sun, Chief Strategy Officer of the Clinical Service Centre and Dr Akhmal Yusof, CEO of CRM, at the Clinical Service Centre headquarters in Shanghai. This agreement paves the way for deeper engagement with Chinese pharmaceutical industries to expand their clinical trial footprint in Malaysia.

CRM also took centre stage at the Seminar on Malaysia's Pharmaceutical Market and Clinical R&D Environment hosted by the Shanghai Center of Biomedicine Development and co-organised by the Suzhou Clinical Service Centre. The event attracted over 30 delegates and featured a panel discussion on why Malaysia and Southeast Asia are emerging as preferred destinations for clinical trials, alongside a presentation by Dr Akhmal on Malaysia's clinical trial ecosystem and regulatory strengths.



In addition, the delegation met with leading pharmaceutical and biotech companies including United Imaging, Fosun Pharmaceuticals, Shanghai Pharma and Kanglin Biotech to explore opportunities in oncology, ophthalmology, nephrology, respiratory and gene therapy. The mission also saw CRM's participation in CPHI China, Asia's largest pharmaceutical event which drew more than 90,000 attendees and 3,500 exhibitors from across the globe. The event underscored China's position as a pharmaceutical powerhouse and provided valuable insights into global industry trends and opportunities.

These engagements collectively reinforced Malaysia's position as a competitive clinical trial hub and laid a strong foundation for building lasting research and innovation bridges between Malaysia and China.

Patients Take the Spotlight in Clinical Trials



KUALA LUMPUR, 9 May 2025 – A powerful shift unfolded during CRM Trial Connect 2025 as the Patient Engagement Forum brought together patients, advocates and professionals, not as counterparts but as co-navigators in the clinical trial journey. What emerged was an honest and moving conversation that underscored the importance of trust, empathy and shared understanding in reshaping public perceptions of clinical trials.

Moderated by Dr Zulhilmi Paiz, Co-Founder of the ASEAN Hemophilia Network, the forum featured three compelling voices: Mr Victor Paul Dorai Raj, a trial participant; Ms Staci Tan, a cancer survivor and former trial participant, as well as Ms Ranjit Kaur Pritam Singh, Immediate Past President of the Breast Cancer Welfare Association Malaysia. Each panellist brought a distinct perspective that shed light on the often-unspoken emotional landscape of clinical trial participation touching on fears, uncertainties and the silent courage it takes to say “yes” to something unknown.

“You are not just a data point,” one panellist shared. “You’re a person being monitored, supported and guided, sometimes more thoroughly than ever before.” This sentiment captured the heart of the session: trust in the system deepens when the system chooses to listen.

The discussion also addressed broader issues such as lingering misconceptions, the role of supportive care and financial assistance and the need for professionals to use more humanised, empowering language. Dr Zulhilmi emphasised the importance of building confidence through patient-to-patient advocacy and empowering experienced participants to serve as ambassadors for others entering clinical trials for the first time.

Held in conjunction with Clinical Trials Day, the forum was a timely reminder that clinical research is ultimately about people. In recognition of this, the event also saw the presentation of the CRM Sponsored Research Awards 2025 to outstanding contributors in clinical research. Among those honoured were Dr Voon Pei Jye of Sarawak General Hospital for Investigator of the Year, University of Malaya Medical Centre and Sarawak General Hospital as top-performing study sites, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) as Sponsor of the Year, IQVIA as CRO of the Year and The Star Media for its role in increasing public awareness of clinical research.

CRM Trial Connect 2025 continues to advance Malaysia and the region as a global clinical research hub and the Patient Engagement Forum stands as a milestone in ensuring that progress is not only scientific but profoundly human.

RESEARCH PERSONALITY



Dr Ngu Lock Hock

*Consultant Clinical Geneticist & Paediatrician
Head, Clinical Genetics Department, Kuala Lumpur
Hospital*

About Dr Ngu Lock Hock

Dr Ngu Lock Hock is a leading figure in clinical genetics and rare disease research in Malaysia, known for his deep commitment to advancing care for patients with inherited metabolic disorders. As the current Head of the Clinical Genetics Department at Hospital Kuala Lumpur and a long-time advocate for rare disease management, his work bridges clinical leadership, research innovation, and patient advocacy.

With over two decades of experience, Dr Ngu brings a patient-focused approach to his clinical trial leadership and research collaborations, particularly in paediatric genetics and lysosomal storage disorders. His work continues to influence national policies and global rare disease networks, making him a trusted expert and speaker in the field.

Could you share with us the beginning of your journey as a PI & challenges you encountered?

My journey as a Principal Investigator began in 2014 with a natural history study on rare genetic disorders, where I was responsible for not just recruitment, but also ensuring data quality, ethics, and patient safety. That experience led to involvement in multiple clinical trials and global registries for rare diseases such as MPS, MOCD and familial hypercholesterolemia.

The biggest challenge has always been patient recruitment, given the small and specific populations involved. However, our department's database of over 15,000 families with confirmed rare genetic diagnoses has been a key advantage, allowing us for example, to recruit the first global patient in a multinational trial.

What motivates you to conduct clinical trials?

My primary motivation for conducting clinical trials is the potential to advance medical knowledge and improve patient care. Contributing to science and helping future patients are also key drivers, along with the personal satisfaction of making a tangible difference in patient's lives.

“My personal vision as an investigator centers around contributing to medical advancements that can improve healthcare practices & potentially save lives while prioritizing patient safety rights, and well-being and ethical conduct.”

Tell us one of your unforgettable experiences as an investigator.

One example of my unforgettable experience is witnessing the direct impact of research on a patient's life. Through a collaboration with an industrial partner, I was able to offer a much-needed enzyme replacement therapy for a child affected by Mucopolysaccharidosis type VII (also known as Sly syndrome). After 5 years of treatment, I can really see the positive effect of this treatment for the child by elevating his quality of life.

In your perspective, what's the biggest challenge in the field of Clinical Genetics?

Clinical genetics field is rapidly advancing, with more complex genetic tests (like whole genome sequencing) and innovative therapies such as gene therapy becoming available. The biggest challenge will be to ensure equity as unequal access to genetic services can exacerbate health disparities, particularly for individuals from underserved communities. I hope government will invest more in genetics services by enhancing public and professional education, expanding the access to genetic tests and therapies, and integrating of genomic medicine into healthcare systems.

What is your personal vision as an investigator?

My personal vision as an investigator centers around contributing to medical advancements that can improve healthcare practices & potentially save lives while prioritizing patient safety rights, and well-being and ethical conduct.

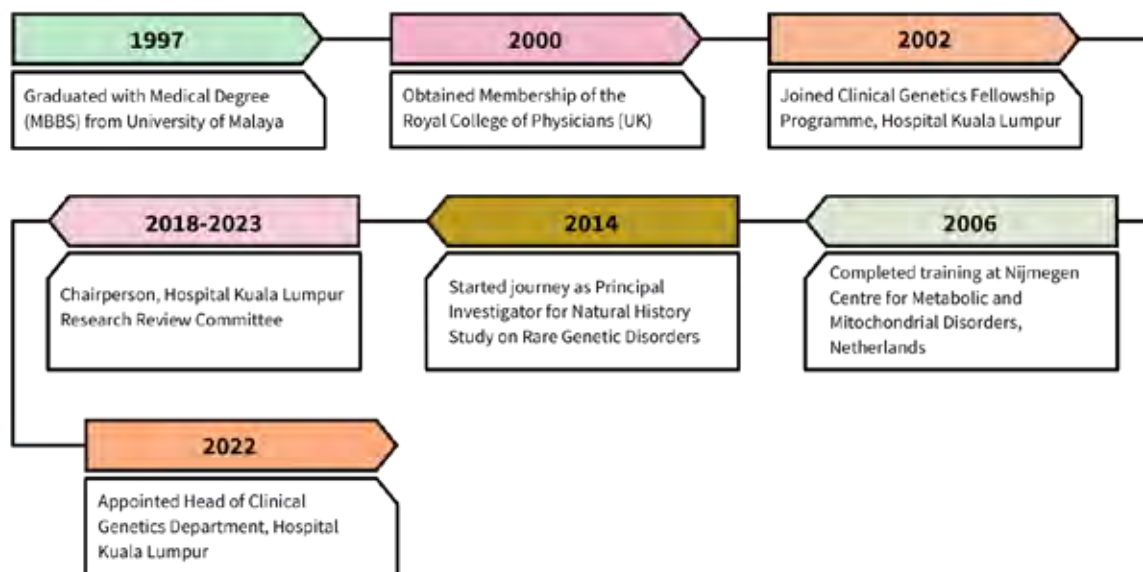
What's your word of advice for those who want to begin their career in clinical research?

My advice is to build genuine connections. You can do this by attending conferences, joining workshops, and reaching out to professionals in the field through online platforms or professional organisations. It's also important to stay updated with the latest developments in clinical research, especially new technologies and emerging trends.

Most importantly, be proactive and always keep an eye out for new opportunities.



Dr Ngu Lock Hock in his office



CLINICAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Sub-I

Involved in >30 ISR studies

Principal Investigator

Handled 10 ISR studies

CURRENT AREAS OF INTEREST IN RESEARCH

- Inherited Metabolic Diseases
- Rare Disease Clinical Trials
- Global Rare Disease Registries
- Paediatric Clinical Genetics



Standing from L-R: Dr. Khairul 'Izzati Binti Mohd Yusoff, Dr Jazlina Liza Binti Dato' Jamaluddin, Dr Ting Siew Li, Dr Winnie Ong Peitee, Dr Chew Hui Bein, Dr Ngu Lock Hock, Muhammad Yusri Bin Fauzi, Nurse Norehan Binti Saim, Dr Chan Mei Yan, Dr Kavitha Rethanavelu, Nurse Suryatylakma Binti Ghazali, Dr Noraishah Binti Mohamed Ali, Nurul Suhada Binti Kamarudin & Jazlina Liza binti Dato' Jamaluddin

RISING STARS IN NEUROLOGY

Neurology has rapidly grown into one of Malaysia's most dynamic areas of clinical research, with over 30 studies conducted since 2022. This growth not only marks significant strides in advancing treatments for neurological disorders but also showcases Malaysia's expanding role in shaping global innovations in neuroscience. In this section, we highlight rising stars whose dedication and expertise are driving progress, bringing new hope to patients and strengthening the nation's research landscape.

Dr Tan Hui Jieh

Neurologist & Stroke Physician

Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital, Ipoh



Areas of Interest in Research

Hyperacute stroke management, stroke systems of care, pre-hospital optimisation, intracerebral haemorrhage care & stroke epidemiology

My research journey began in 2019, but it truly gained momentum after I returned from my fellowship in Australia. Since then, I've found myself more involved in both sponsored and non-sponsored studies, driven by a desire to improve how we deliver stroke care especially in urgent, time sensitive situations.

One of the milestones I hold closest is co-chairing the Malaysia National Stroke Registry. It's been a meaningful platform to support data-driven improvements in stroke care across the country. To complement this, I developed a standardised stroke clerking sheet to streamline documentation and ensure accuracy at the point of care.

Beyond the hospital walls, I continue to share what I've learned through talks, awareness campaigns and scientific meetings. Being recognised by the Malaysian Stroke Council with the Rising Star Award for 3 consecutive years reminds me that this work matters. But more than any award, it's seeing real change in systems and patient outcomes that drives me forward.

Dr Mohamed Azlam bin Mohamed Micdhadhu

Neurologist & Internal Medicine Physician

Seberang Jaya Hospital, Pulau Pinang



Areas of Interest in Research

Hyperacute stroke, secondary stroke prevention, neuroimmunology & neuromuscular disorders

I'm what you'd call a late bloomer when it comes to research. My first real experience began in 2020 as a neurology trainee, starting off as a sub-investigator in an intracerebral haemorrhage study. It wasn't until I returned to Hospital Seberang Jaya in 2022 that my involvement truly deepened.

Today, I'm actively engaged as principal investigator in 2 investigator-sponsored research (ISR) studies and sub-investigator in 2 more focusing on stroke and multiple sclerosis. 2 additional ISRs are also in the pipeline. I've published a cost comparison study on Rituximab vs Truxima for MS, alongside 5 case reports and I'm currently working on 2 more publications. One of my proudest moments was presenting a poster at the 2022 World Stroke Conference in Singapore.

What matters most to me is seeing my patients, especially those with rare conditions like MS—gain access to treatments they otherwise couldn't afford. I believe we urgently need more data and national attention on stroke and neuroimmunology. These are areas that don't just deserve awareness, they demand action.

Dr Rose Izura Bt Abdul Hamid

Consultant Physician (Internal Medicine) & Neurologist

Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kelantan



Areas of Interest in Research

Stroke, epilepsy, neuroimmunology, and rare neurological diseases

Growing up in Kelantan, I've always been drawn to the complexities of the human brain. After completing my medical degree at UKM in 1999 and specialising in Internal Medicine by 2009, I pursued Neurology in 2010, later deepening my expertise in hyperacute stroke management during my subspecialty training at UCLH, London.

Currently, I serve as a Consultant Neurologist at HRPZII, with a keen interest in stroke care, epilepsy, neuroimmunology, and rare neurological diseases. I began exploring research during my early years as a medical officer—what started with clinical audits gradually evolved into meaningful clinical trial involvement.

Since 2010, I've moved from sub-investigator roles in Parkinson's studies to leading trials as Principal Investigator in areas like Epilepsy, Pompe Disease, and Stroke. Research, to me, is not just about innovationists, it's also about giving patients access to better, more timely treatment options. Through this work, I hope to continuously elevate the standard of neurological care for my community and beyond.

Dr Linda Then Yee Yen

Neurologist

Sarawak General Hospital



Areas of Interest in Research

Stroke, epilepsy, neurophysiology & botulinum toxin therapy

I graduated from UNIMAS in 2008 and obtained MRCP(UK) in 2012. I completed Neurology subspecialty training in 2019 including one year of fellowship in Stroke at National Neuroscience Institute, Singapore.

Currently I serve as neurologist in Sarawak General Hospital. Although my expertise is in stroke, I have broader interest in epilepsy, neurophysiology and Botox. I am also running a comprehensive neurophysiology lab in Sarawak General Hospital.

My research journey began in 2012. I started off by contributing as sub-investigators in a Parkinson's disease trial. I gradually learn about clinical research whilst collaborating with other researchers. To date, I have participated in 16 neurology-related research and 10 publications. One of the most memorable milestone was authoring publication for European Stroke Journal in 2019.

As a clinician, I am inclined to collaborate with other researchers in areas that are directly relevant to patient care and improving health outcomes. Stroke is a leading cause of disability worldwide and Malaysia needs more RCTs in acute ischemic stroke.



What matters to me is seeing my patients, especially those with rare conditions like MS—gain access to treatments they otherwise couldn't afford.



Dr Mohamed Azlam

Introducing the Newly Improved CRM's **Find A Clinical Trial** Platform!

WHAT'S NEW?



Improved User-Interface

Simple, mobile-friendly navigation for easy trial discovery by therapeutic area, location, and more.



Healthcare Professionals Feature

Access recruiting trial listings in Malaysia, to support in patient referrals and collaborations.



Patient Advocacy Groups

Explore the network of Patient Advocacy Groups that are out there, to engage with the community.



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Platform!



LEVEL UP YOUR SKILLS

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Upcoming Highlights



Nurturing New Talents in Sponsored Research



Protocol Compliance Workshop



Patient Recruitment & Retention Workshop



Study Coordinator Accelerated Program

✓ **Seats are limited – secure your spot today!**

🔗 **Register via provided QR code in the program schedule.**



FEATURED SITE

Sibu Hospital



Sibu Hospital, located approximately 10km from the heart of Sibu town has been a cornerstone of healthcare in central Sarawak since it began operations on 1 September 1994, replacing the historic Lau King Howe Hospital to meet the region's growing medical needs. As the second largest hospital in Sarawak, it serves as the main referral centre for eight district hospitals in Kanowit, Kapit, Mukah, Dalat, Daro, Sarikei, Saratok and Betong, and also receives neurosurgical, neurological and other subspecialist referrals from Bintulu Hospital.

Beyond its pivotal role in patient care, Sibu Hospital is also a key centre for medical education and research. It serves as a teaching hospital for Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), SEGi University and Sibu Nursing College, as well as a postgraduate training hub for allied health disciplines such as nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and assistant medical officer training. The hospital also fosters close research collaborations with renowned institutions including Duke University, the University of Texas Medical Branch, Universiti Malaya, City – St. George's University of London, Nottingham University Malaysia and United Kingdom, Sunway University and Fudan University.



Blood Bank



X-ray Department

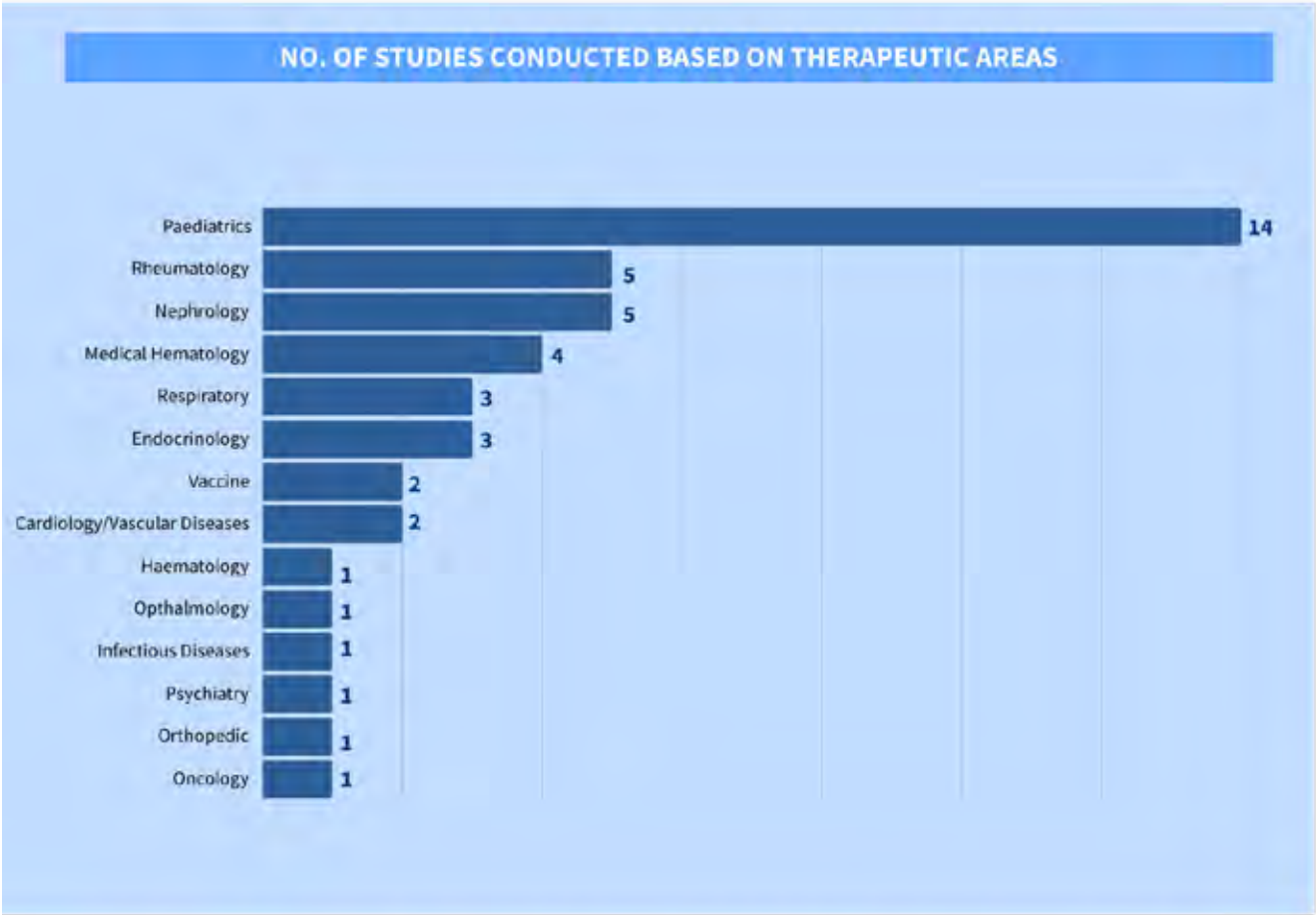


Drive-through Pharmacy

MAIN DEPARTMENT & SERVICES

Subspecialities in neurology, endocrine, nephrology, rheumatology, dermatology, geriatrics, rehabilitation medicine and community child health / developmental & behavioural paediatrics

- Emergency and Trauma
- Internal Medicine
- General Surgery
- Orthopaedics
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Ophthalmology
- ENT (Ear, Nose & Throat)
- Radiology
- Neurosurgery
- Psychiatry
- Anaesthesiology
- Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care
- High Dependency and Labour Wards
- Forensics & Pathology
- Drive-through Pharmacy (first in Sarawak, launched in 2019)



ABOUT CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE, SIBU HOSPITAL

The Clinical Research Centre (CRC) at Sibu Hospital officially began operations on 02 January 2011 and is located on Level 3 of the hospital's main building. CRC includes a Clinical Research Clinic and an Investigational Product Room. Additionally, the CRC Laboratory, which specialises in molecular virology studies, was established in June 2017, and served as the COVID-19 PCR reference lab during the pandemic.



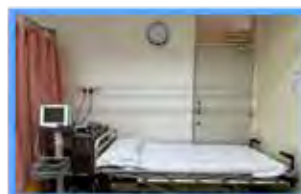
CRC Main Office



CRC Clinic



CRC Clinic



CRC Clinic



CRC Investigational Product Room & Mini Lab



CRC Investigational Product Room & Mini Lab



CRC Laboratory



Vaccination Room

SNAPSHOT OF SPONSORED CLINICAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES (2012 -2025)

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Awarded | 57 |
| On-going | 3 |
| Recruiting | 9 |
| Start-up | 4 |
| Closed/Completed | 33 |
| Terminated/Withdrawn | 8 |

CRM STUDY COORDINATORS SITUATED IN SIBU HOSPITAL



Standing from L-R: Jo Jo Tan, Shelly binti Henry Buju, Kong Mee Ang, Caroline Jane binti Waini & Emmanuella Nino Christina Wakiman.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

| Year | Accomplishment |
|------|--|
| 2018 | VICTOR - Global first recruiter for Cohort 3, and Global 3 rd Top Recruiter |
| | RESPIRE - Global 5 th Top Recruiter, Top Recruiter Outside Europe |
| 2019 | Top recruiter for V114-031 in Malaysia |
| 2021 | Top recruiter for PRO-nCOV-3002 in Malaysia |

MEET OUR TEAM

Salina Lisang

*Associate Regional Manager, East Malaysia C Region
Team CEO Award 2024 Recipient*



About my role

I began my journey with CRM in 2014 as a Study Coordinator at Hospital Queen Elizabeth II, mainly handling cardiovascular studies. Later, I moved to Hospital Miri as the sole coordinator, starting with just a few trials. Today, Miri has grown into a strong team of seven, recognised with the Site Significant Award in 2022 & the CEO Award for Excellent Site Screening and Recruitment in 2025. Over the years, I've worked across cardiology, haematology, paediatrics & rheumatology, gaining invaluable experience. Now as Associate Regional Manager, my role is to guide and connect supporting coordinators, collaborating with investigators, CROs & sponsors, and ensuring our work reflects the highest standards. For me, it's about trust, teamwork, and delivering quality in every study.

What inspired you to be part of the clinical research industry and what drives you to move forward?

My passion has always been helping patients, which first led me to nursing. I saw how even the smallest gestures—a smile, a kind word—could make a difference. That same drive guides me in clinical research. By supporting Study Coordinators, I know I'm indirectly helping patients in our studies. Each trial brings challenges and growth, but also the chance to contribute to something greater. What keeps me going is the thought that our work may one day lead to new medicines that change lives.

What has been your greatest learning opportunity in clinical research?

Being part of multiple trials has broadened my knowledge across therapeutic areas, with each study bringing unique challenges. As a Study Coordinator, I handled feasibility, budgets, logistics, and communication. Now, in the ARM role, I've expanded those skills to support all aspects of clinical trials—working with CRM, investigators, coordinators, sites, CROs, sponsors, and stakeholders to ensure smooth execution.

Important value/criteria that helps you support your role.

Consistency has been my anchor as both a Study Coordinator and now as an ARM. It creates reliable processes, maintains quality and allows both myself and other coordinators to work efficiently and independently. Without it, performance dips, deadlines are missed, and the overall quality of work suffers—something we cannot afford in clinical trials.

What part of your role do you find most rewarding or challenging?

Challenges are part of the job, but what I value most as an ARM is the people aspect. Supporting, understanding, and growing with others has strengthened my empathy and perspective. The most fulfilling part is creating a positive impact not just on the work but also on the people I work with.

In your daily work-life, what keeps you motivated in your workplace? (Coffee? Colleagues?)

Support from my incredible team keeps me motivated. Knowing I can count on the Study Coordinators, fellow ARMs, PIs, and CRM management gives me the security to push higher. Success isn't just about data—it's about teamwork, trust, and resilience, and that shared purpose drives me every day.



Standing from L-R: Mag, Rihan, Afiatul, Jennifer, Salina, Sylvia, Atikah, Fatin & Rachael

Valintiny Anak Patrick
Clinical Trial Administrator (CTA)
Sarawak General Hospital



About my role:

My name is Valintiny, and I am currently serving as a Clinical Trial Administrator (CTA) at Sarawak General Hospital, focusing on oncology studies. My responsibilities cover the entire study start-up process: managing feasibility assessments, attending site selection visits (SSVs), coordinating study start-up activities, arranging meetings with investigators, and supporting various operational tasks at the site.

How does the CTA process influence the overall success and timelines of a clinical trial?

The CTA process is crucial as it begins with feasibility. As the first point of contact, I help connect potential studies to the Principal Investigator (PI). Once interest is confirmed, the sponsor arranges a site selection visit where I coordinate and attend discussions with the PI to review the study protocol. If the study is selected, I manage the full start-up phase handling submissions, budget preparation and ensuring readiness for the Site Initiation Visit (SIV). This timely process directly impacts how soon a study can begin at our site.

What are some common challenges you face in preparing or submitting CTAs, and how do you overcome them?

One of the main challenges is meeting strict deadlines while ensuring the Clinical Trial Agreement (CTA) is thoroughly reviewed against the outcomes of budget negotiations. The process also requires close engagement with multiple departments and institutions, which can sometimes delay progress. To overcome these challenges, I make it a priority to plan ahead, maintain clear communication with all parties, and pay close attention to details to avoid unnecessary back-and-forth during reviews.

Which part of your CTA work do you find the most rewarding and which part is the most challenging?

The most rewarding moment is when study start-up is completed & the study is activated at site by the Study Coordinator (SC) and their team during the SIV. The most challenging part is budget negotiation, as every cancer study involves unique requirements and complex protocols. I must ensure no essential tests or procedures are overlooked while balancing input from multiple stakeholders, including the PI, sponsors, Contract Research

Organizations (CROs), vendors and the SC. These discussions can be lengthy but are critical for accuracy.

Do you liaise closely with any specific departments or external entities?

I work closely with the Radiotherapy and Therapeutic Department, Sarawak General Hospital administration, study sponsors, CRM Finance and the CRM Legal Team.

What drives you in your day-to-day work—perhaps a strong team, impactful outcomes or even something as simple as coffee?

Several things keep me motivated in my role. A good rest at the end of the day helps me recharge and stay focused. I am also very grateful for supportive and helpful colleagues, whose teamwork makes challenges easier to overcome. Most of all, I find satisfaction in completing tasks within the required timelines, as it gives me a sense of progress and purpose in contributing to the success of clinical trials. !



Standing from L-R: Nur Syaza Mirza Binti Omar, Angelyna Michelle Anak Pencras, Valintiny Anak Patrick, Rosierra Anak Rosedy, Cindy Gumal

CRM IN PHOTOS



Engagement with Dr Mohamad Alkhoul
(Vice Chair for Strategic Partnerships,
Dept of Cardiovascular Medicine, Mayo
Clinic)

14
May



CRM & Dato' Prof. Dr. Adeeba,
Pro Vice-Chancellor and President of
Monash University, and Dr Sivakumar,
Deputy Head (Education) of the Clinical
School Johor Bahru, Monash University

14
May



Engagement with the IQVIA team

14
May



Engagement with Dr Ata Khan,
Managing Director of Kameda
Infologics

18
June



Engagement with Gene Solutions
team

20
June



Engagement with Mr Jummat
Huang, Chief Representative for
Malaysia from Innovita

2
Jul



CRM had engagement with IA-
DATA connected with Biogenes
Technologies

3
Jul



Engagement between CRM and
Pink Unity, a support group under
the National Cancer Society of
Malaysia

10
Jul



Engagement between CRM and
Mitsui & Co team

15
Jul



Engagement between CRM and
Credevo

15
Jul



Engagement between CRM and KPJ
Healthcare University team

17
Jul



Engagement between CRM and
Fosun Pharma team

18
Jul

CRM IN PHOTOS



CRM engagement with Rodon Global team

18
Jul



CRM engagement with Dr Rokon Uddin, Senior Clinical Data Engineer at Bayer (Finland)

18
Jul



CRM engagement with Unity7ai team

22
Jul



CRM with Mr Yoshida Tomoaki, the newly appointed First Secretary and Health, Labour & Welfare Attaché from the Embassy of Japan

24
Jul



CRM engagement with Prof Dr Raja Affendi, Dean of Medicine, and A/Prof Dr Chew Jactty, Deputy Dean of Medical and Life Sciences, Sunway University

24
Jul



CRM engagement with Clinrol

29
Jul



CRM engagement with Dr Azhar Ahmad

29
Jul



Touchbase meet between CRM & AstraZeneca team

14
Aug



Engagement meets with Kanglin Biotech (Malaysia)

15
Aug



Engagement between CRM & Dr Boro Dropulić (Executive Director of Caring Cross) and Dr Shariha Khalid (Founding Partner of Mission & Co)

20
Aug



Engagement meeting between CRM and Dr David Wong, Executive Chairman of Reset Health

21
Aug



CRM touch-base meeting with the team from Johnson & Johnson

22
Aug

www.clinicalresearch.my



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