# Shorter Activation Timelines are Associated with Improved Enrollment Efficiency

NYU Langone Health

Perlmutter Cancer Center
An NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

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## Background

- Reducing time to activation of clinical trials is a key objective for cancer hospitals aiming to accelerate the availability of innovative treatments while improving operational efficiency
- In recent years, the Perlmutter Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office has worked to overcome these challenges by refining workflows and optimizing internal processes, aiming to shorten trial initiation times and enhance enrollment potential

## Goals

The primary goal of this initiative was to reduce trial activation timelines.

## Solutions and Methods

1. **Streamlining activation processes**: Identifying and eliminating bottlenecks in the trial initiation timeline, including improving workflows and promoting coordination across departments
2. **Implementing data-driven approaches**: Using performance metrics and data analysis to monitor timelines, predict potential delays, and proactively address issues
3. **Expanded staffing**: increased number of full-time pre-activation regulatory specialists available to handle study activations
4. **Fast Track program**: implemented new process by which selected trials may undergo accelerated activation

| Year | Activation time (days) | | Activation to first patient (days) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Median* | *Mean* | *Median* | *Mean* |
| **2020** | 202 | 222 | 59 | 119 |
| **2021** | 191 | 208 | 84 | 117 |
| **2022** | 70 | 76 | 58 | 98 |
| **2023** | 65 | 76 | 67 | 105 |
| **2024** | 60 | 69 | 54 | 62 |

| Activation time | Activation to first patient | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Median* | *Mean* |
| <70 days *(n=108)* | 53 | 85 |
| 70-100 days *(n=41)* | 77 | 99 |
| 100-130 days *(n=18)* | 73 | 108 |
| 130-160 days *(n=16)* | 91 | 128 |
| 160+ days *(n=69)* | 74 | 125 |

## Outcomes

- By refining internal workflows, we successfully reduced the time from trial initiation to activation
- This was associated with a decrease in the time from study activation to first patient enrollment

## Lessons Learned and Future Directions

- Our experience with accelerating activation time has shown to directly benefit the enrollment potential of clinical trials
- By continuing to optimize our workflows, we aim to further reduce activation time for clinical trials in order to improve patient access to cutting-edge treatments and enhance the overall efficiency of clinical research
- This approach offers a model for other institutions seeking to enhance clinical trial timelines and patient access to innovative therapies