Category: Clinical Trial Operations (Trial Start-up, Regulatory, Data Management, IITs) – Work in Progress

Integrating Expertise: Forming a Unified Hybrid Clinical Trial Team for Cancer-Related Research

M. Wren, S. Voitik, A. Maguire, D. Harwood

Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, Florida

1. Background

Clinical trials at our site, Mayo Clinic in Florida, have been historically divided into specialized domains with distinct methodologies and protocols tailored for cancer and non-cancer research. The evolving field of medical science and the growing recognition of the interconnectedness of various diseases have necessitated a paradigm shift particularly as cancer-related therapies are applied to non-cancerous conditions and vice versa. Due to a rise in clinical trial volume, it has placed a strain on existing resources as teams traditionally divided between various types of research have struggled to keep pace with the demands. To address this, it has become imperative to create a focused hybrid team with specialized knowledge and expertise in cancer-related and non-cancer research to synergize both processes into one cohesive and harmonious pathway.

2. Goals

Our goal is to establish a cross disciplinary team that has subject matter expertise in both cancer center and non-cancer related processes. By fostering expertise across these diverse research domains, we aim to create a highly skilled and adaptable team. This multidisciplinary proficiency will enable us to tackle complex challenges, streamline workflows, and deliver optimal outcomes for both cancer and non-cancer research initiatives.

3. Solutions and Methods

To achieve our primary goals of updating and refining our processes for seamless integration between cancer center and non-cancer research, we will develop and implement standardized procedures that harmonize both research practices, ensuring consistency, and efficiency across all clinical trials. Comprehensive training programs will be provided to all team members to bridge the knowledge gap between different research domains. Additionally, we will utilize advanced technological solutions to facilitate data sharing, enhance communication, and streamline workflows between cancer and non-cancer research teams. Lastly, we will establish a continuous feedback loop to regularly assess, refine, incorporate lessons learned, adapt to emerging challenges, and opportunities in clinical research.

4. Outcomes

The formation of a hybrid team with specialized expertise in both cancer and non-cancer research leads to several key outcomes. First, it enhances cross-domain collaboration by fostering increased knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary problem-solving. This will help address complex challenges, optimize resource utilization, reduce the strain on existing teams and improving the ability to manage the rising volume of clinical trials. Additionally, the team's focus on both cancer and non-cancer research also improves trial management efficiency, enhances flexibility which allows for swift adjustments to emerging trends and opportunities in clinical research. Lastly, these outcomes will be measured by comparing historical and current study activation metrics in our Protocol Development Unit RedCap database.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

By establishing a hybrid team with expertise in both cancer-related and non-cancer research, we aim to achieve significant efficiencies by keeping pace with the growing blend of cancer-related research and

historically cancer-specific therapies whilst developing clinical trials faster and more effectively. The hybrid team will foster collaboration and innovation that will allow us to adapt quickly and address the growing demand for comprehensive treatment strategies. Ultimately, this will lead to quicker patient recruitment and improved outcomes for both cancer and non-cancer clinical trials.