

Uniting Cancer Research Teams: the Impact of a Collaborative Education Series

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1. Background

Cancer center clinical trial offices consistently express the need for enhanced education, training, and cross-collaboration opportunities. This was substantiated by a 2024 survey conducted by AstraZeneca among partnered sites, with 90 percent of respondents affirming that targeted education, training, and best practice sessions would be advantageous for their staff.

2. Goals

The Site Education Series was designed with three primary goals: identify and meet site education needs, enhance engagement between research staff and AstraZeneca, and establish community amongst sites.

3. Solutions and Methods

A planning committee of site representatives from Yale Cancer Center and Fox Chase Cancer Center, twelve additional academic and community institutions, and two facilitators from AstraZeneca, guided the strategy for the Site Education Series. Committee members represented a diverse range of clinical, nonclinical, coordinator, and leadership roles to ensure broad perspectives. The planning committee determined the topics and established a dedicated subcommittee for each webinar. Each subcommittee organized content identified speakers from sites, and reviewed all presentation materials to ensure clarity and relevance. AstraZeneca site engagement leads distributed webinar registration information to their operational points of contact at each site, who then subsequently encouraged participation amongst research staff. Using this approach, three webinars were successfully executed in 2025:

- Best Practices and Leveraging AI to Enhance Prescreening
- Quality Solutions for Common Compliance Challenges
- Mastering Site Source Documentation Webinar attendees were surveyed immediately following the webinar to assess the quality of the session

Additionally, a year-end survey was administered to assess the webinar series' impact on professional development and site process improvement.

4. Outcomes

A total of 526 research staff attended the three-webinar series, with 200 completing post webinar surveys (38 percent response rate). Overall, participants rated the series very positively. Across all webinars, approximately 94 percent of respondents rated the content as highly relevant, with no participants indicating low relevance. Similarly, 91 percent indicated the sessions as highly informative. Interest in future participation was exceptionally high; 96 percent of respondents expressed a strong likelihood of attending future webinars, underscoring their strong satisfaction in the educational value. Of the 27 individuals who addressed the question on application of webinar learnings, 79 percent were

actively exploring, planning, or implementing changes at their respective sites based on webinar takeaways. Specifically, 41 percent were exploring ideas, 28 percent were developing actionable plans, and 10 percent were implementing changes either partially or fully. Furthermore, the majority reported that the learnings impacted their practice as a clinical research professional; 93 percent acknowledged some level of impact, including five percent who indicated significant impact.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

Participants expressed a preference for webinars that offered actionable resources, including practical guidance, step-by-step processes, and readily applicable templates, which they could implement at their respective sites. Additionally, the use of live polling throughout the presentations was particularly well received. This interactive feature supported collaborative learning by enabling participants to benchmark practices across multiple sites and adopt effective strategies and best practices at their own institutions. Sustained demand and positive reception have supported the extension of the **Site Education Series** into 2026. The **Planning Committee** remains committed to refining future webinars to address existing educational gaps and to promote inter-site knowledge exchange.