COG: CRO Summit UK

Copthorne Tara Hotel London Kensington

16th & 17th June 2026

Clinical Outsourcing Group

SPEAKERS

Sverre Bengtsson – CEO – **Digital Trial Solutions**
Gurpreet Singh – VP, Integrated Safety – **IQVIA**
Andreas Lysandropoulos – SVP, Global Therapeutic Area Head Neuroscience – **Parexel**
Kingsley Eze – Senior Director, Project Management – **hVIVO**
Rob Bedford – Managing Director – **Franklyn Health**
Diana Matiashvili – CEO & Founder – **Paspigioni**
Clara Molinari – Director, Vendor Management – **Worldwide Clinical Trials**
Gülden Ortaç – General Manager – **KlinAR CRO**
Michael Edwards – Managing & Scientific Director – **VirTus Respiratory Research**
Isaac Appiah – Site Director – **Clerkenwell Health**
Nicolas Thevenet – Director of Operations – **Euraxi Pharma**
Nikhil Khadabadi – CMO – **Eclevar Medtech**
Joseph Milne – Director of Clinical Operations – **Scottish Brain Sciences**
Pinaki Chaudhuri – Director, Strategy & Delivery – **Syneos Health**

Sessions Reserved for:
Medidata Solutions
TRI
MHRA

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DAY 1 | 16th June 2026

08:00 **Registration & Morning Refreshments**

08:50 **Organiser's Welcome Address**
Alexander O'Leary – Director – **PBC Group**

08:55 **Chair's Welcome Address**
Sverre Bengtsson – CEO – **Digital Trial Solutions**

Section A
Partner Collaboration

09:00 **KEYNOTE**
Outsourcing Evolution: Changing Sponsor Demands and Market Dynamics

The outsourcing landscape has undergone transformation over the past decade, with sponsors fundamentally reimagining vendor relationships from transactional service arrangements to strategic partnerships. Quality expectations, technology integration, and specialised therapeutic expertise needs are reshaping traditional CRO selection criteria, yet these changes create opportunities for enhanced collaboration models.

In this session Gurpreet will explore how evolving sponsor priorities are transforming the outsourcing landscape, examining new partnership models, technology-driven service delivery, and emerging vendor capabilities. Discussing current market trends, sponsor decision-making frameworks, and strategic approaches that collectively redefine successful outsourcing relationships in today's competitive clinical development environment.

Gurpreet Singh – VP, Integrated Safety – **IQVIA**

09:25 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved for Medidata

09:50 **KEYNOTE**
Building a Patient-Centred, Precision-Driven Approach to Neuroscience Trials

Neuroscience trials present some of the most complex design and recruitment challenges in clinical research, demanding innovative strategies that balance scientific rigour with meaningful patient engagement across a notoriously long and difficult development pathway. Examining how sponsors and CROs can build a cohesive approach that meets the evolving expectations of both patients and regulators from first-in-human studies through to market access.

In this session, Andreas will explore how the neuroscience field can draw on lessons from oncology and rare disease to accelerate its adoption of precision medicine principles, novel biomarkers, and digital measurement tools that are reshaping trial design and patient selection. Discussing how to engage patients and their carers from the earliest stages of development, the emerging role of digital biomarkers

in capturing real-world disease burden and treatment response, and how innovative trial designs can satisfy regulatory requirements whilst remaining meaningful to the people living with these conditions. Addressing the practical steps teams can take to embed precision medicine thinking into neuroscience programmes, ensuring that scientific innovation and patient-centricity are not competing priorities but complementary drivers of a more efficient and impactful path from development to access.

Andreas Lysandropoulos – SVP, Global Therapeutic Area Head Neuroscience – **Parexel**

10:15 **PANEL**
Collaboration: Q&A Panel Discussion

This interactive Q&A session provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with this section's presenters, gain further perspectives, and explore challenges facing CROs and trial sponsors with regards to collaboration.

10:35 **Morning Refreshments & Networking Break**

Section B
Vendor Integration

11:10 **KEYNOTE**
The Selection-to-Oversight Continuum: Navigating Multi-Vendor Collaboration

Successful multi-vendor collaboration demands a structured approach that spans the entire supplier lifecycle, from rigorous initial selection through to active ongoing oversight and performance governance. Understanding how to navigate each stage of this continuum, defining clear accountability and embedding enduring oversight practices across all vendor relationships, is vital for optimising collaborative value whilst mitigating operational and quality risks.

In this session, Kingsley will offer practical guidance on navigating the complete selection-to-oversight continuum in multi-vendor environments, examining how robust vendor qualification criteria, dedicated oversight responsibilities, and structured performance governance frameworks influence collaboration quality and operational outcomes. Exploring vendor selection methodologies that prioritise long-term partnership potential, transition management approaches between selection and operational phases, and joint oversight models that maintain momentum and accountability throughout the vendor lifecycle to help organisations build cohesive multi-vendor ecosystems that deliver consistent quality and sustained competitive advantage.

Kingsley Eze – Senior Director, Project Management – **hVIVO**

11:35 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved for TRI

12:00 **KEYNOTE**
Strategic Partnership Selection: Navigating the Complexities of MedTech Trials

Medical device and MedTech studies present distinct operational and regulatory challenges that differ fundamentally from biopharma trials, requiring specialised CRO partners with proven expertise in this unique sector. Understanding the technical, procedural, and compliance demands of device investigations and selecting partners with demonstrated capability is essential for successful study execution and regulatory approval.

In this session, Rob will share how to identify specialist MedTech CROs, exploring how device-specific protocol expertise, surgeon engagement strategies, and technical performance assessment impact study outcomes. Discussing device iteration management, specialised monitoring for procedural interventions, and regulatory pathway navigation to help sponsors understand why selecting partners with dedicated device expertise avoids common pitfalls that compromise timelines, data quality, and market authorisation.

Rob Bedford – Managing Director – **Franklyn Health**

12:25 **PANEL**

Vendor Integration: Q&A Panel Discussion

This interactive Q&A session provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with this section's presenters, gain further perspectives, and explore challenges facing CROs and trial sponsors with regards to vendor integration.

12:45 **Lunch & Networking Break**

Section C
Tailored Expertise

14:00 **KEYNOTE**

Beyond Established Markets: Integrating Emerging Regions into Global Clinical Trial Strategy

Incorporating emerging markets into clinical development plans has become an increasingly powerful strategy for sponsors and CROs seeking to accelerate enrolment, access underrepresented patient populations, and strengthen the global relevance of their trial data.

In this session, Diana will explore the strategic and operational considerations of building emerging markets into clinical plans alongside proven sites, examining how international trial management frameworks, novel site activation approaches, and context-specific operational models can unlock enrolment advantages in regions where clinical research infrastructure is still maturing. Further discussing the practicalities of establishing sites in markets where research activity has historically been limited, to help organisations move beyond traditional market selection and build geographically diversified trial portfolios that deliver faster, fuller enrolment without compromising data integrity or patient safety.

Diana Matiashvili – CEO & Founder – **Paspigioni**

14:25 **KEYNOTE**

Reserved

14:50 **KEYNOTE**

The Hidden Timeline: Where Clinical Trials Actually Lose Time and What To Do About It

The most significant threats to clinical trial timelines are rarely visible in the project plan. Decision delays, rework loops, and governance friction quietly erode schedules long after approval, not through poor execution, but through the structural inefficiencies that well-run organisations often fail to see, let alone measure.

In this session, Pinaki delivers a data and experience-led breakdown of where time leakage reliably occurs across the trial lifecycle, and why conventional planning rarely accounts for it. Examining how trial leaders can distinguish between execution slippage and decision-driven delay, how well-intended controls and approval processes unintentionally introduce weeks or months of friction, and what practical steps to take to quantify and reduce hidden time loss without destabilising the delivery teams working hardest to keep studies on track.

Pinaki Chaudhuri – Director, Strategy & Delivery – **Syneos Health**

15:15 **PANEL**

Tailored Expertise: Q&A Panel Discussion

This interactive Q&A session provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with this section's presenters, gain further perspectives, and explore challenges facing CROs and trial sponsors with regards to Tailored Expertise.

15:35 **Afternoon Coffee & Networking Break**

Section D
Optimising Resources

16:00 **KEYNOTE**

Vendor Governance Excellence: Strategic Vendor Selection and Oversight in the ICH E6 R3 Era

Robust vendor governance is critical when navigating evolving regulatory expectations and sponsor demands for rigorous oversight of trial outsourcing. Implementing comprehensive vendor management frameworks that balance due diligence rigour with operational efficiency is essential whilst ensuring patient safety and data integrity across the vendor ecosystem.

In this session, Clara demonstrates the importance of building resilient vendor governance programmes, exploring how ICH E6 R3 requirements for oversight of third-party service providers, risk-based vendor selection approaches, and proactive performance management processes impact regulatory inspection outcomes and sponsor confidence. Discussing fit-for-purpose vendor selection methods aligned with study-specific needs and current guidelines, and risk frameworks for managing the full vendor lifecycle. Helping transform vendor governance from a reactive administrative burden into a strategic differentiator.

Clara Molinari – Director, Vendor Management – **Worldwide Clinical Trials**

16:25 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved

16:50 **KEYNOTE**
Beyond Borders: A CRO Rescue Study Case Study in Rare Disease

CROs operating in rare disease research face uniquely complex recruitment challenges, and knowing when and how to intervene as a rescue partner can determine whether a study succeeds or stalls entirely. Examining the strategic, operational, and relational approaches a CRO deployed to revive a failing rare disease trial and meet recruitment targets in Turkey.

In this session, Gülden will present a detailed case study of a CRO engagement to rescue a stalled rare disease study, exploring how geography, patient population characteristics, and local healthcare infrastructure shaped a tailored recruitment strategy outside of traditional Western European markets. Discussing the critical role of primary care physician relationships in identifying and referring rare disease patients, the advantages of engaging non-European recruitment markets, and the site activation tactics that unlocked previously untapped patient populations. Drawing on real-world lessons from Turkey, this session will offer practical insights into building the local partnerships and investigator networks needed to deliver on recruitment commitments in challenging rare disease programmes where every eligible patient counts.

Gülden Ortaç – General Manager – **KlinAR CRO**

17:15 **PANEL**
Optimising Resources: Q&A Panel Discussion

This interactive Q&A session provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with this section's presenters, gain further perspectives, and explore challenges facing CROs and trial sponsors with regards to resources.

17:30 **Chair's Day 1 Summary & Closing Remarks**
Sverre Bengtsson – CEO – **Digital Trial Solutions**

17:30 **Networking Drinks & Canapés Reception**
(complementary admission to all participants)

DAY 2 17th June 2026

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08:30 **Registration & Morning Refreshments**

08:55 **Chair's Welcome Address**
Sverre Bengtsson – CEO – **Digital Trial Solutions**

Section E
The UK Renaissance

09:00 **KEYNOTE C-SUITE PANEL**
UK Clinical Research Renaissance: Strengthening Britain's Position in Global Trials

The UK's clinical research landscape is undergoing significant transformation, creating opportunities to attract international trial sponsors and reposition Britain as a preferred destination for global studies. Recent MHRA regulatory initiatives promise enhanced efficiency, yet realising the UK's full competitive potential requires strategic coordination across stakeholders.

This panel brings together leaders from UK CROs to discuss strategies for attracting international sponsors. Examining how MHRA regulatory reforms, NHS infrastructure developments, and UK-specific competitive advantages influence sponsor site selection and operational planning. The discussion will cover streamlined approval pathways, NHS patient recruitment capabilities, data infrastructure strengths, and investment priorities necessary to position the UK as the market of choice for sponsors seeking quality, speed, and innovation in clinical trial delivery.

Panel Chair: **Sverre Bengtsson** – CEO – **Digital Trial Solutions**
Michael Edwards – Managing & Scientific Director – **VirTus Respiratory Research**

09:45 **KEYNOTE**
Phase 4 in the UK: Leveraging Real-World Data and Patient Involvement for Late-Phase Research

Conducting Phase 4 clinical research in the UK presents a distinctive opportunity for sponsors and CROs able to harness the country's rich longitudinal data assets, established regulatory infrastructure, and culture of meaningful patient engagement. Understanding how to translate these advantages into faster, more efficient study planning and execution is increasingly essential for teams seeking to generate robust post-approval evidence whilst maintaining the highest standards of participant-centricity.

In this session, Joe explores the practical realities of delivering Phase 4 research in the UK, demonstrating how longitudinal cohort platforms such as the IONA Gateway can reshape study feasibility, site selection, and recruitment strategy. Discussing how IONA cohort data enables sponsors to stratify populations and identify eligible participants ahead of activation, and how meaningful Patient and Public Involvement engagement from the earliest stages strengthens protocol development and retention outcomes, helping teams transform UK Phase 4 delivery into a strategically planned, data-informed, and patient-centred research advantage.

Joseph Milne – Director of Clinical Operations – **Scottish Brain Sciences**

10:15 **KEYNOTE**

Partnership Excellence: Strategic Site Engagement for Clinical Research Success

Effective NHS collaboration has become increasingly critical for CROs seeking to maximise recruitment potential and operational efficiency within the UK's unique healthcare and research infrastructure. Understanding how to navigate NHS structures, engage university medical centres, and leverage integrated patient populations is essential for accelerating timelines whilst ensuring research quality and patient-centred trial delivery.

In this session, Issac will explore how to build productive partnerships, exploring how Research and Development office engagement, academic principal investigator identification, and Patient Identification Centre utilisation impact recruitment and data quality. Discussing NHS governance navigation, academic engagement frameworks, and integrated care approaches to help CROs transform UK institutional complexity into competitive advantage that demonstrates to international sponsors the superior patient access opportunities Britain's healthcare system and academic research centres provide.

Isaac Appiah – Site Director – **Clerkenwell Health**

10:40 **PANEL**

UK Clinical Research: Q&A Panel Discussion

This interactive Q&A session provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with this section's presenters, gain further perspectives, and explore challenges facing CROs and trial sponsors with regards to UK Research.

10:55 **Morning Refreshments & Networking Break**

Section F
Technology Disruption

11:25 **KEYNOTE**

Bringing Trials Home: Revolutionizing Patient Access Through Decentralized European Research

Despite common misconceptions, the European market for clinical research is far from harmonized. Researchers often rely on familiar sites, limiting geographical reach and study participants diversity. By adopting home trial services and decentralized approaches, we can dramatically reduce trial recruitment timelines, increase enrolment, study participant retention, decreasing missed data, improve patient access to research, and achieve true diversity in clinical trials while meeting patients where they are most comfortable.

In this session, Nicolas will challenge traditional site-centric models, presenting innovative home-based clinical services that are expanding the research footprint across Europe and potentially globally. Exploring how bringing the trial to the patient through home nursing, remote monitoring, and flexible assessment schedules can transform accessibility while meeting diverse patient needs and preferences in ways traditional research centres cannot.

Nicolas Thevenet – Director of Operations – **Euraxi Pharma**

12:00 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved

12:25 **KEYNOTE**
Platform Agility: Managing Multiple EDC and eTMF Systems in Multi-Sponsor CRO Environments

The proliferation of electronic data capture and trial master file platforms presents significant operational challenges for CROs working with diverse sponsor portfolios. Understanding how to maintain staff proficiency and optimise efficiency across multiple technology ecosystems is essential for balancing sponsor preferences with internal capability development.

In this session, XXX will discuss how to manage varied EDC and eTMF requirements, exploring how training frameworks, standardisation strategies, and resource models impact start-up timelines and performance. Discussing staff competency across platforms, technology evaluation criteria, and workflow optimisation to help CROs build sustainable multi-platform strategies that accommodate sponsor preferences whilst maintaining excellence and avoiding productivity losses from excessive technology fragmentation.

Reserved for Syneos Health

12:45 **PANEL**
Technology Disruption: Q&A Panel Discussion

This interactive Q&A session provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with this section's presenters, gain further perspectives, and explore challenges facing CROs and trial sponsors with regards to the adoption of technology.

13:00 **Lunch & Networking Break**

13:50 **Delegate Prize Draws**

Section G
Artificial Intelligence

14:00 **KEYNOTE**
AI in Clinical Research: Build vs. Buy Technology Solutions

CROs face mounting pressure to accelerate study timelines, reduce costs, and deliver high-quality data in today's competitive and complex clinical trial environment. The quest for effective technical solutions that enable clinical trial professionals to achieve more with fewer resources—without compromising quality—has reached unprecedented urgency.

In this session, Nikhil will examine the strategic considerations for in-house AI development versus off-the-shelf solutions in clinical research. Through practical examples, we'll explore where AI has already delivered tangible benefits for CROs and biopharmaceutical companies, while providing a framework to evaluate these technologies to prevent rework, address privacy considerations, and mitigate potential safety risks.

Nikhil Khadabadi – CMO – **Eclevar Medtech**

14:25 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved

14:50 **KEYNOTE CLOSING PANEL**
UK CRO Summit 2026: Looking Ahead - Trends and Opportunities Panel Discussion

This interactive Q&A session brings together key thought leaders from today & yesterday's summit to discuss the critical trends shaping the clinical research landscape over the next 12 months. Panellists will share insights on emerging opportunities, address evolving challenges facing trial sponsors, and explore how the industry can adapt to meet tomorrow's demands.

This is your chance to engage directly with summit presenters, gain forward-looking perspectives, and participate in shaping the conversation about where our industry is headed in the year ahead.

15:15 **Chair's Summary & Closing Remarks**

Sverre Bengtsson – CEO – **Digital Trial Solutions**

End of Conference