COG: CRO Summit UK

Copthorne Tara Hotel London Kensington

16th & 17th June 2026

Clinical Outsourcing Group

PREVIOUS SERIES SPEAKERS

Paul Johnson – Executive Director, Strategy Development – **PharPoint Research**
Sybil Wilson – Vice President, Global Commercial Operations – **Veristat**
Charlene Dark – COO – **Avania**
Earl Seltzer – Executive Director, Strategy & Innovation – **CTI Clinical Trial & Consulting Services**
Jasmina Jankicevic – CMO – **Indero**
Megan Liles – Vice President, Clinical Delivery – **HGI Clinical**
John Mann – Senior Vice President, North American Operations – **Avance Clinical**
Trish Landry – Senior Vice President, Clinical Operations – **Beaufort CRO**
Claudia Christian – CCO – **FHI Clinical**
Sandy Robbins – Vice President, Commercial Operations – **MMS**
Chris Learn – Senior Vice President, Cell & Gene Therapy – **Parexel**
Lorraine Rusch – CEO – **Cardiovascular Clinical Sciences**
Jeanne Hecht – CEO & Chairwoman – **Lexitas Pharma Services**
Krystyna Kowalczyk – CEO – **Kapadi**
Karen Chu – Founder & CEO - **HiRO**
David Pomfret – VP, US Clinical Operations – **Mobius Medical**
Kirk Wroblewski – CIO – **ProPharma**
Andreas Lysandropoulos – SVP, Global Therapeutic Area Head Neuroscience – **Parexel**
Lisette Wagenaar – Global Head, Vendor Management Office – **IQVIA**
Christel Slot – Director, Business Unit Operations – **Syneos**
Gary Zammit – CEO – **Clinilabs**
Gaia Kiru – Head of Operations & Partnerships – **Imperial College London (ICTU-Global)**
Andreas Moschos – Co-Founder – **NEXT CRO**
Nikhil Khadabadi – CMO – **Eclevar Medtech**
Nicolas Thevenet – Director, Operations – **Euraxi Pharma**
Sverre Bengtsson – CEO – **Digital Trial Consultants**
Maryna Todoriuk – Trial & Clinical Senior Expert – **MEDSIR**
Yuri Kartashov – Chief Research & Development Officer – **TRIALT**

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Clinical Outsourcing Group

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**

Section A
Partner Collaboration

09:00 **KEYNOTE**
Strategic Alliances: Turning CRO Collaboration into Competitive Edge

The evolving clinical research environment increasingly favours alliances between small- to mid-size CROs with complementary strengths, enabling access to sophisticated trials beyond any single organisation's reach. Understanding how to structure effective inter-CRO collaborations whilst maintaining operational efficiency and quality is essential for sustainable growth.

In this session, XXX will share practical insights into winning business through strategic CRO-CRO partnerships, exploring joint bid strategies, complementary capability presentations, and unified defence meetings that increase sponsor confidence. Discussing operational integration frameworks, technology synchronisation, and talent-sharing strategies that build seamless collaborative environments, preserving individual strengths whilst eliminating the handoff inefficiencies that typically challenge multi-vendor trial execution.

09:25 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved for Medidata

09:50 **KEYNOTE**
Strategic Alliances: Mastering CRO-CRO Bid Defence Strategies

Strategic partnerships enable CROs to compete for complex trials that would otherwise remain out of reach, but success hinges on the bid defence meeting itself. When executed well, joint defence presentations demonstrate not just combined capabilities, but genuine operational synergy that reassures sponsors and differentiates your alliance from competitors.

In this session, XXX discuss how to prepare for and conduct successful CRO-CRO bid defence meetings, exploring what sponsors expect to see, how to present a cohesive partnership story, and strategies for addressing concerns about multi-vendor coordination. Discussing how best to prepare, role allocation between partners, response coordination techniques, and methods for demonstrating seamless integration that build sponsor confidence and distinguish your alliance from competitors.

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**
Partnership Excellence: Building a Strategic Supplier Collaboration Framework

Successful supplier management demands more than procurement processes and contractual agreements, requiring an organisation-wide commitment to relationship cultivation and governance. Understanding how to configure internal structures, define clear accountability, and embed enduring oversight practices is vital for optimising supplier value whilst mitigating risk.

In this session, XXX will offer practical guidance on establishing resilient supplier management frameworks, examining how dedicated Business Supplier Owner (BSO) responsibilities, multi-disciplinary supplier strategy forums, and bespoke information systems influence relationship strength and operational performance. Exploring stakeholder engagement approaches, supplier evaluation methodologies, internal capability development, and joint governance models that help organisations convert disparate supplier touchpoints into cohesive partnership networks.

11:35 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved for TRI

12:00 **KEYNOTE**
Technology Integration: Strategic Assessment and Implementation in CRO Operations

The acceleration of clinical research capabilities increasingly depends on effective technology adoption - yet selecting and implementing the right solutions remains a critical challenge for CROs navigating a complex and crowded digital landscape. Establishing rigorous pre-contracting evaluation frameworks and structured onboarding processes has become essential for organisations committed to technology-driven operational excellence without disrupting ongoing delivery.

In this session, XXX will share practical insights from recent technology implementation experience, exploring how comprehensive pre-contract assessment criteria, stakeholder-aligned evaluation methodologies, and phased deployment strategies impact adoption success and operational outcomes. Discussing technology readiness scoring frameworks, vendor capability verification approaches, cross-functional onboarding protocols, and performance validation metrics to help CROs transform

opportunistic technology purchases into strategic digital investments that enhance operational capacity whilst minimising implementation risk and maintaining business continuity throughout the integration process.

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**
Therapeutic Mastery: Leveraging Oncology Expertise in Rare Indications

CROs face unprecedented complexity when conducting trials in rare oncology indications, understanding how to apply deep therapeutic knowledge whilst navigating limited patient populations is essential for trial success. This session examines critical expertise requirements and strategic advantages that specialist oncology knowledge delivers when executing rare indication studies.

In this session, XXX will share practical insights into the unique benefits therapeutic expertise brings to rare oncology trials, exploring how disease biology understanding, patient journey insights, and investigator network relationships impact recruitment efficiency and data quality. Discussing protocol optimisation informed by oncology expertise, patient identification strategies in limited populations, and specialist site selection approaches to help CROs demonstrate why therapeutic depth drives superior outcomes in complex rare indication oncology studies where every patient enrolled and every data point collected carries exceptional value.

14:25 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved

14:50 **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, XXX 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.

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**
Quality Excellence: Strategic Quality Management for CROs in the ICH E6 R3 Era

Effective quality management has become increasingly critical for CROs navigating evolving regulatory expectations and sponsor demands for robust oversight systems. Understanding how to implement comprehensive quality frameworks that balance compliance rigour with operational efficiency is essential for maintaining competitive advantage whilst ensuring patient safety and data integrity.

In this session, XXX demonstrates the importance of building resilient quality management systems for CROs, exploring how ICH E6 R3 requirements, risk-based monitoring approaches, and proactive quality control processes impact regulatory inspection outcomes and sponsor confidence. Discussing internal audit programme design aligned with current guidelines, quality metrics that drive continuous improvement, and integrated risk management frameworks to help CROs transform quality oversight from reactive compliance burden into strategic differentiator.

16:25 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved

16:50 **KEYNOTE**
People First: Cultivating and Developing Talent for UK CROs

CROs are fundamentally people businesses, and establishing effective talent development strategies is critical for maintaining operational excellence in the UK's competitive clinical research market. Examining essential approaches to training, retaining, and advancing staff that UK CROs must implement to thrive in current conditions whilst preparing for future growth opportunities.

In this session, XXX will delve into short, medium, and long-term talent development strategies tailored for UK CROs, exploring how evolving sponsor expectations, UK workforce trends, and career progression pathways impact operational delivery and employee engagement. Discussing talent acquisition in the UK market, professional development investments aligned with UK regulatory requirements, and

retention risk mitigation to help CROs build a resilient workforce whilst creating strategic advantages in an increasingly competitive UK talent landscape where skilled clinical research professionals remain a scarce and valued resource.

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**

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

DAY 2 17th June 2026

08:30 **Registration & Morning Refreshments**

08:55 **Chair's Welcome Address**

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: **XXX**

09:45 **KEYNOTE**
Reserved

10:15 **KEYNOTE**
NHS and Academic Partnership Excellence: Strategic Site Engagement for Clinical Research Success

Effective NHS and academic 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, XXX will explore how to build productive NHS and academic 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.

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**
Transformation to a Digital First CRO: From Automation to Intelligent Insights

The digitalisation of clinical research assets represents a fundamental shift that extends far beyond simple efficiency gains, creating the foundation for advanced analytics and AI-powered innovation. Understanding how to navigate this transition whilst addressing complex regulatory, data governance,

and implementation challenges is essential for organisations seeking sustainable competitive advantage.

In this session, XXX will divulge insights from implementing 'digital workers' across diverse business functions, exploring how robotic process automation, natural language processing, and machine learning capabilities impact operational excellence. Discussing the progression from basic automation to hyper-automation, regulatory considerations, and strategic frameworks for technology selection to help organisations build comprehensive digital strategies that deliver measurable improvements in quality, speed, and risk management whilst unlocking the full value of data assets.

`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.

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**
The AI Revolution: Transforming Clinical Trials with Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence is playing a pivotal role in transforming the way we approach trial architecture development, budgeting, medical monitoring, and oversight. Navigating regulatory requirements while prioritizing the needs of patients and sites in an evolving technological landscape.

In this session XXX will explore how to effectively leverage AI to modernise clinical research operations, focusing on the vast opportunities presented by automation and data-driven decision-making. From shaping early feasibility models to guiding country and site selection strategies and stakeholder mapping, AI brings real strategic value to trial architecture development. Drawing from her experience managing complex trials and consulting for technology companies, understanding the industry's pain points and the urgent need to move beyond paper-heavy processes, to optimise workflows for patients, sites, and CROs. Demonstrating how AI can serve as a productivity enabler rather than a technological hindrance.

14:25 **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, XXX 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.

14:50 **KEYNOTE**
AI as a Competitive Differentiator: How CROs Can Harness Oversight Intelligence to Win Studies

As AI becomes foundational to clinical oversight, CROs are uniquely positioned to lead, but only if they evolve beyond buzzwords and apply AI to real operational advantage. CROs that master quality AI implementation can differentiate their services, reduce trial costs, and consistently outperform competitors, not just by promising innovation, but by proving it.

In this session, XXX explores how CROs can build smarter, more efficient oversight strategies by adopting closed loop, validated AI systems that meet sponsor expectations while driving internal performance. Attendees will learn how to: Assess internal operational needs to match the right-fit AI partner, Embed AI into oversight workflows for risk scoring, data review, and resource allocation, Demonstrate measurable value to sponsors during bids and delivery, Build scalable governance models for future AI growth.

15:15 **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.

15:30 **Chair's Summary & Closing Remarks**

End of Conference