Asia Training Consortium (ATC)

Research Areas

- Tool Development
- Training

At a Glance

- Status: Active Consortium
- Year Launched: 2012
- Initiating Organization: Pan-Asian Clinical Research Association
- Initiator Type: Industry
- Location: Asia

Abstract

The Asia Training Consortium (ATC) was founded in 2012 as a unified platform for pharmaceutical companies to establish common goals and share resources to provide world-class training and development in Asia. The collaborative training initiatives aim to resolve issues of redundant and duplicate trainings, less-than-optimal class sizes, and lower-than-ideal training frequencies, all of which are prevalent in the region.

Mission

Formed in October 2011 in Shanghai, China, ATC is a group of pharmaceutical companies and clinical research organizations, plus one regional association, that are pooling their resources to deliver quality training courses for clinical research professionals in the Asia Pacific region. ATC also hopes to significantly enhance the number and quality of professionals to meet the resource demands of the globalized industry. The first target audience would be clinical trial investigators and clinical trial management staff—with priorities provided to clinical trial associates, clinical trial project managers, and clinical research managers.
Consortium History

The idea of developing an Asia Training Consortium was discussed, conceptualized, and finalized by pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations, and other healthcare-related companies at the IBC-Asia “3rd Annual Partnership’s in Clinical Trials Asia” conference in Shanghai, China, in October 2011. The underlying objectives for establishing the ATC were to (a) address common training issues facing the industry and healthcare sector and (b) recognize that only collectively through a structured collaboration can the ATC bring about improved quality in clinical research and related training (to attending training course delegates), while simultaneously reducing the efforts and associated costs of training for consortium members.

The initial member companies (spearheaded by Pan-Asian Clinical Research Association as the umbrella nonprofit organization, Merck (MSD), Orchestrall, Covance, RPS, and Bayer) moved swiftly, and ATC was incorporated in Singapore as a legal entity in June 2012. However, even prior to finalization of the legal entity, ATC was already working in a collaborative manner and initiated/delivered a number of training courses. Since that time, ATC has successfully delivered a wide range of training courses across Asia.

Structure & Governance

Board of Directors:

Financing

ATC members pay annual dues of $2,500 to participate in the consortium.

Impact/Accomplishment

As of 2014, 900 days of ATC courses have been taught in classrooms throughout Asia. ATC’s Foundations of Clinical Project Management is regularly offered in Shanghai and is available online in
English and Mandarin.

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