



# The Importance of Clinical Research

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CLINICAL RESEARCH IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT FOR THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, FOR SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT, AND FOR THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY. CLINICAL RESEARCH, INTERNATIONALLY AND IN GREECE, IS CONDUCTED WITHIN A VERY STRICT FRAMEWORK, WHICH IS DEFINED IN DETAIL BY EU AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

According to the legal framework, research programs must have the approval of the National Organization of Medicines (EOF), the National Ethics Committee and the Research Committees/Board of Directors of Hospital Institutions.

Today, most clinical research programs are multi centered, which means they are conducted concurrently in many member states. Clinical research constitutes the most important stage in the course of developing a new medicine and is also a valuable tool for understanding certain diseases.

Pharmaceutical companies that participate in the design and implementation of clinical studies have departments manned by groups of scientists, who have undergone specialized training on specific subjects. New original medicines and new treatments lead to the promotion of public health, which is the necessary structural element for health, for economic development, and for the prosperity of society. Modern clinical research, done at the height of scientific achievement, means a reduction of cost and time in the development of new medicines, resulting in the citizens' direct access to innovative medicines and benefiting, without delays, from new treatment choices. The participation of patients in clinical studies, according to EU and na-

tional legislation, is voluntary and is proposed by research physicians to patients only if the research treatment is expected to be beneficial for the patient and on the condition that the benefits of the treatment under examination outweigh any possible risks involved.

Clinical studies contribute to the rapid access of patients to new treatments,

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especially for life threatening diseases. At the same time, clinical studies contribute to the improvement of health, of patients' quality of life, and increase their life expectancy.

The sound academic background of Greek researchers, combined with the experience of EOF authorities and committees, and that of the National Ethics Committee in the evaluation, approval, and monitoring of clinical studies, are guarantees for the proper conduct of clinical studies in Greece.

Clinical research creates new jobs, utilizes scientific human capital in specialized sectors, and sets the ground for investment in the healthcare infrastructure on a continuous basis.

What remains as basic prerequisite for the attraction of investments in Clinical Research is the establishment of a Uniform National Policy for Research and Development, the reduction of bureaucracy, the establishment of a uniform framework of operation for all public bodies involved, and respect of the time frame for the approval of clinical studies, according to EU and national legislation.

With the right economic, tax, and development incentives, with the implementation of the most effective means of research efforts, wherever they may originate, with the significant participation of universities in research and the positive synergy of resources, we will achieve impressive performances and we will avoid the sterile fragmentation and confinement of the range of research efforts. Greece must become a center for the conduct of clinical trial with international appeal, securing important benefits for public health and the national economy. The attraction of investment in research, with an emphasis on the conduct of clinical trials in Greece, is the road to the future, the road which the country has to follow. 🇬🇷