

## **Clinical Trials - The Clinician Perspective: The Australasian College of Dermatologists**

Health care professionals are a primary point of contact for patients. Referrals can provide valuable support to clinical trial recruitment, and vital options to patients, particularly in circumstances where there may be limited or no treatment choices available.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists kindly agreed to distribute a CTC survey which was sent out to 542 Fellows nationally in November 2015.

The aim of the survey was to assess clinician understanding of the clinical trial process; knowledge of referral pathways; motivations and deterrents to referral; and patient interest in clinical trials, for the purpose of:

1. Providing healthcare professionals better access to current clinical trial activity/information
2. Developing more cost effective recruitment strategies
3. Uniting the Australian community to research opportunities

We received a 7% response (38 respondents). The survey results revealed that the majority of respondents understood what volunteering to take part in a clinical trial would involve for their patients, but even though 78.95% of those surveyed had previously been an investigator for a clinical trial the majority (52.63%) were not sure where to search if they wanted to know what clinical trials were open to recruitment in Australia. The positive news in the outcome of the results was that whilst there were some understandable reasons for hesitations in referring patients into clinical trials, 89.47% of respondents said they would consider referring a patient into a clinical trial and 10.53% said maybe. None of the survey respondents indicated that they would not consider referring.

This survey provides benchmarking insight into the clinician perspective on clinical trials and we hope that it will encourage other peak medical bodies to share their views on clinical trials. It is important to continue the conversation about research and its value on the future of healthcare.

Special thanks to Associate Professor Peter Foley, Associate Professor Chris Baker and Dr Andrew Satchell for their assistance in making the administration of the survey possible. We would also like to thank the Australasian College of Dermatologist and the Fellows who took time to complete the survey.

