

The role of the coordinating centres for clinical trials (KKS network) and publicly funded trials in Germany

Christoph Coch

Member of Executive Board KKS Network and
Head of Clinical Trial Center Bonn
Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Pharmacology
University Hospital Bonn

- Coordinating centre for clinical trials in an academic institution
- Sponsor responsibilities in an academic institution
- Example: Study Center Bonn
- Network of coordinating centres for clinical trials (KKS network) in Germany
History and structure today
- Publicly funded trials in Germany

Need for a coordinating center for clinical trials in an academic institution!?

What is needed for the scientifically and legally sound clinical trial?

...as called for by scientific community and European/ National law

- Clinical expertise
- Scientific expertise
- (often) access to patients
- Regulatory/ legal expertise
- Trial methodology
- Tools for clinical research, e.g. trial data base
- Experience/ skills in project management
- Pharmaceutical expertise

investigator responsible



← *no time/
no expertise*

Sponsor of trial responsible

Investigator initiated trial

Trial coordinating center

Company sponsored trial: industry



- Project Management
- Monitoring
- Safety Management
- Quality Management
- Biometry
- Data Management
- IT
- IMP handling
- Site Management



Need for an interdisciplinary team:

- Physicians
- Scientists
- Pharmacists
- Statisticians
- Data Manager
- Safety Manager/ Safety Assistant
- Quality Manager
- Clinical monitors
- Clinical Research Assistant
- Study Nurse

Essential functions in the beginning

- Director/Management
- Project management
- Biometry
- Quality management

Can be conducted in cooperation/ implemented later

- Data management
- Monitoring
- Safety management
- Training/ education
- IMP handling

Can be implemented later

- Site management

- Institution/ Medical faculty
to compensate for services that cannot be financed by external money; e.g. support of fund applications/ trial consulting/ sponsor quality control
- Public funding (general or trial specific)
- Industry funded projects
- Training/ education courses
investigator training/ study nurse education/ ...

Initial BMBF-funding for trial infrastructures*

Coordinating
Centres for Clinical
Trials (KKS)

29 Mill. €

1999-2009, 13 centres

Clinical Trial Centres
(site management)
(ZKS)

29 Mill. €

2017-2015, 5 centres

KKS-
Network

1.8 Mill. €

2004-2009

National
ECRIN-
office

1.2 Mill. €

2010-2015

**German Ministry for Education & Research*

- Coordinating centre for clinical trials in an academic institution
- Sponsor responsibilities in an academic institution
- Example: Study Center Bonn
- Network of coordinating centres for clinical trials (KKS network) in Germany
History and structure today
- Publicly funded trials in Germany

Sponsor responsibilities in an academic institution

Sponsor of investigator initiated trial = medical faculty/ university/ university hospital
e.g. Dean of medical faculty in Bonn

Sponsor = Responsible for initiation/ organisation/ financing of trials with medical devices and medicinal products according to european/ national law

Sponsor can pass tasks but not responsibility to other parties such as investigator



Before and over course of trial sponsor has implemented quality control
Affiliated with/ attached to a trial coordinating center or separate quality control unit

In Bonn affiliated with trial coordinating center but independent in decision

- Coordinating centres for clinical trials in an academic institution
- Sponsor responsibilities in an academic institution
- Example: Study Center Bonn
- Network of coordinating centres for clinical trials (KKS network) in Germany
History and structure today
- Publicly funded trials in Germany

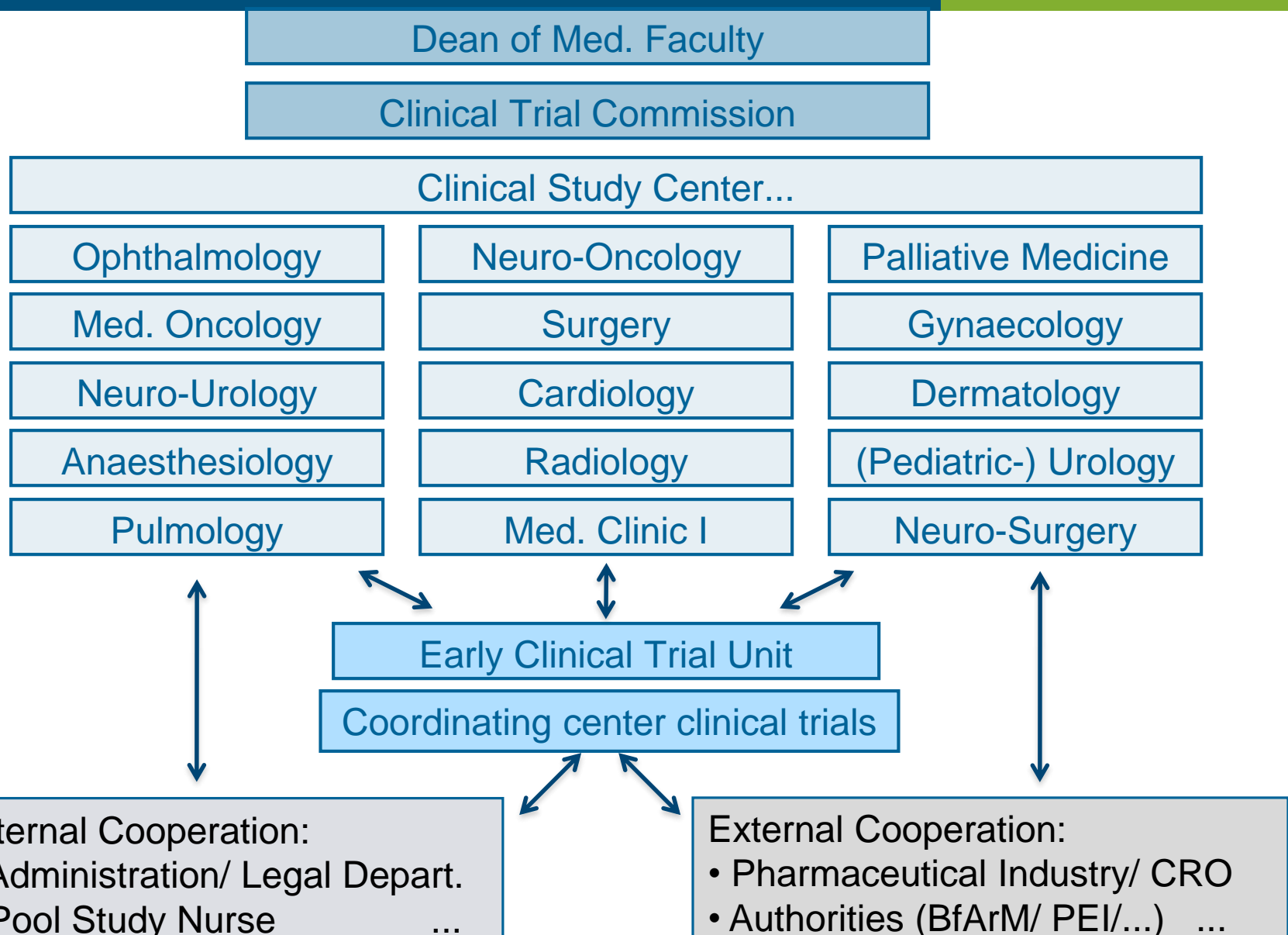


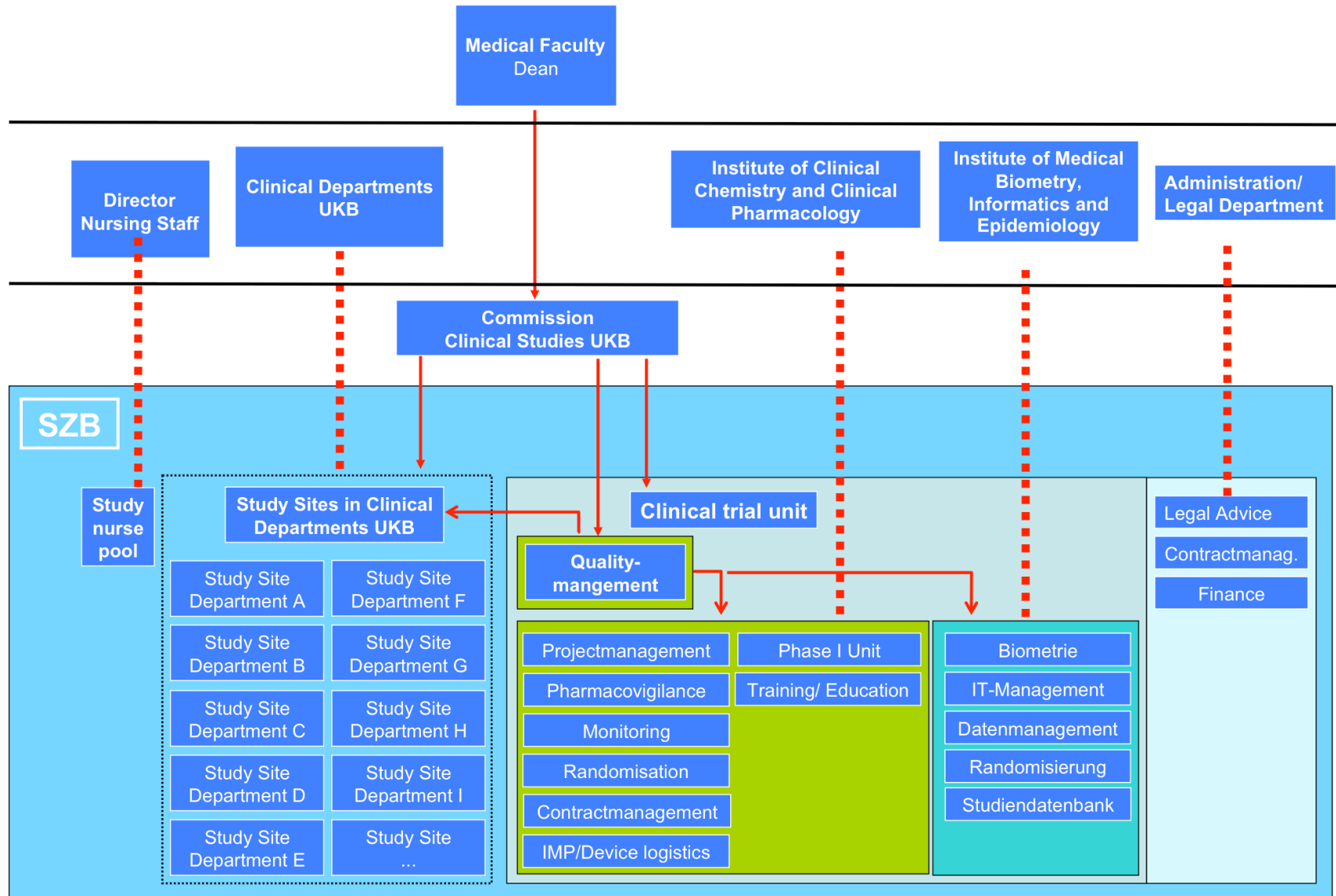
SZB: Association of all facilities at the University Hospital Bonn performing clinical trials:

- **Clinical Study Center** of the different departments
- **Clinical Study Core Unit = coordinating center for clinical trials**
Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Pharmacology
Institute of Medical Biometrics, Informatics and Epidemiology (IMBIE)
- **Pool Study Nurse**
- **Administrative departments** (legal department, contract management)

→ **Coordinating centre for clinical trials embedded in Infrastructure for clinical research**

- Conduct/ support of clinical trials, especially investigator initiated trials at University Hospital Bonn
- support of clinical trial sites/ investigators at University Hospital Bonn „site management“
- Conduct of early clinical trials in specialized facility „Phase I – Unit“
- Support of translational projects in the research laboratories
- training and education of staff
(GCP training/ AMG course/ MPG course/ lecture series together with BfArM (German competent authority))





- Coordinating centre for clinical trials in an academic institution
- Sponsor responsibilities in an academic institution
- Example: Study Center Bonn
- Network of coordinating centres for clinical trials(KKS network) in Germany

History and today

- Publicly funded trials in Germany

7 KKS-sites promoted by BMBF program 1999



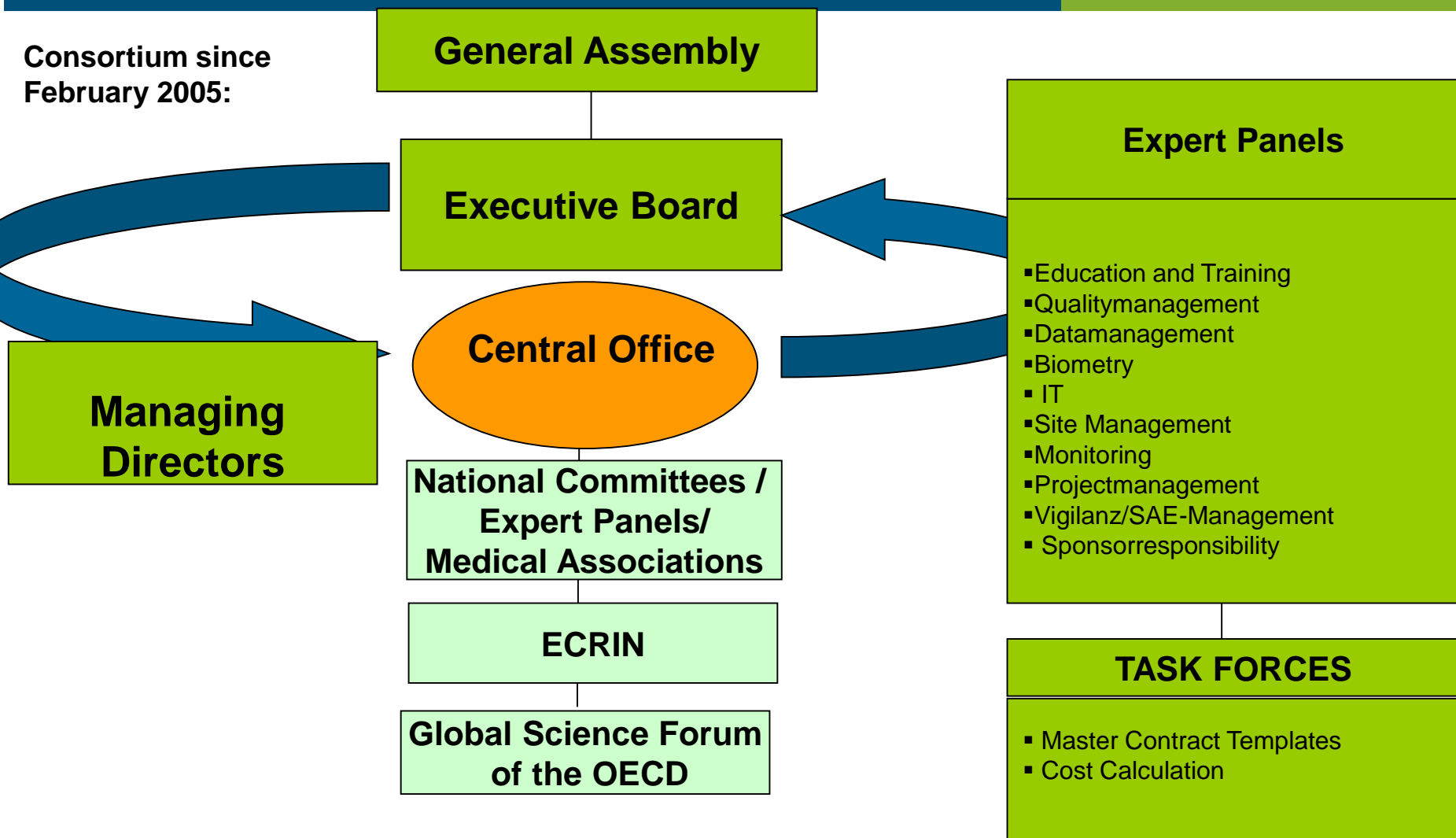
20 KKS-sites 2016



- Harmonising of nationwide quality standards and work processes.
- Initiating and implementing of synergistic effects between academic trial units (*e.g. in case of acquisitions or methodological and technical developments*)
- Developing standardised curricula for certified training programmes.
- Increasing visibility, acceptance and influence of academic clinical research (*e.g. interaction and networking with bodies, politicians, policy makers*)
- Strengthening the academic profile of clinical trials
- Improving the range of services towards comprehensive project management

KKS-Network: Structure

Consortium since
February 2005:



- KKS-Network coordination by a central office (Berlin)
- Regular meetings of the General Assembly, the KKS/ZKS-directors, the expert panels and task forces
- Workshops/ symposia for internal and external participants
- Purchase of software to be used by all KKS/ ZKS-sites
- Obtaining legal advice
- Communication, public relations and media work
- Regulatory, scientific and political networking on a national and international basis
- Infoservice for members

Topics

- Education
- Quality management
- Data management
- Biostatistics
- Information technology
- Project management
- Site management
- Pharmacovigilance
- Monitoring

Results (examples)

- Harmonised SOPs
- Curricula & certification of courses
- Discussion of specific topics
- Recommendations for members
- Sharing best practice
- etc.

Papers

GCP-compliant digital archiving of paper-based patient records of clinical trial subjects: a key issues paper

Clin. Invest. (2013) 3(5), 451–465

Newsletter



circular

NEWSLETTER DES KKS-NETZWERKS | Nr. 23

Comments

Comment

on the draft by the European Parliament regarding A regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation, referred to hereinafter as the GDPR)

taking into account the draft by the European Commission
in conjunction with the

Netzwerk der Koordinierungszentren
für Klinische Studien (KKS-Netzwerk)



Network of the Coordinating Centres for Clinical Trials

Projects

ADAMON
ADAPTIERTES MONITORING

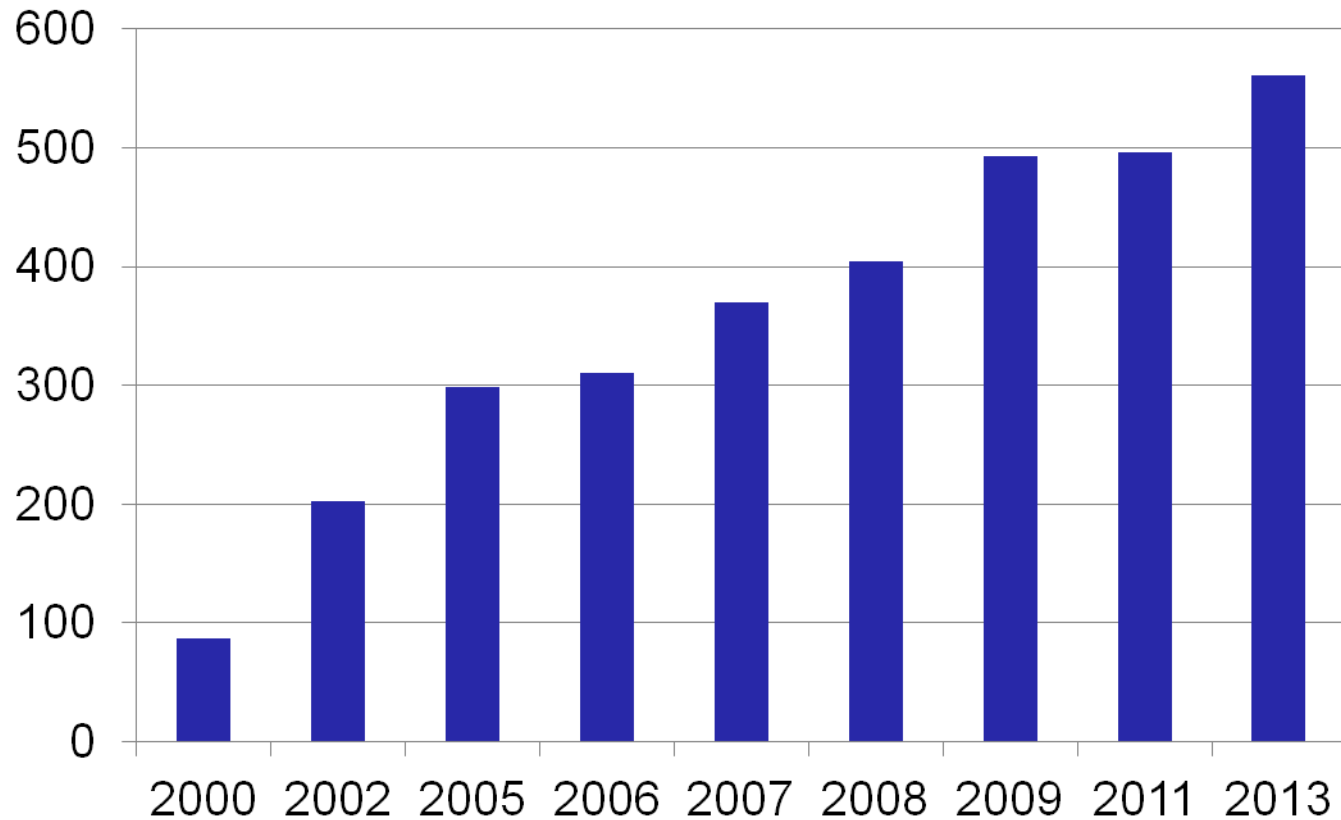
Prospective cluster-randomized investigation into strategies adapted on a study-specific basis for on-site monitoring in conjunction with additional quality assurance measures.

Panels

Chairing expert panel on insurance in clinical trials (*results to be included in the German Drug Law*)

- Target: Slow and controlled growth
- Critical mass of applicants available
- Standardised procedure defined in SOPs
- New members need to share the objectives of the KKS-Network
- Two-phase admission for new members:
 - associated membership for 1 year
 - full membership after successful external audit (*structure, work processes*)
- Annual membership fee: 15.000,- €

**Employees
(N)**



Year

Typ of Course	Courses (N)	Participants (N)
Investigator	400	10.462
Study nurse	95	2.316
Coordinating Investigator	49	975
Monitoring	22	481
GCP-refresher	22	540
Medical device	11	202

- part of KKS-Network central office
- home of the European Correspondent (*and other related staff*)
- structuring work between KKS-N and ECRIN
 - *establishing processes for interactions between KKS-Network and ECRIN*
 - *implementing cooperation of KKS-Network experts for ECRIN*
 - *introducing expertise/tools available in the KKS-N into ECRIN*
 - *building infrastructure to meet criteria for ECRIN data centre certification*
- first contact point for sponsors interested in cooperating with ECRIN
 - *fostering participation of other ECRIN countries in IITs initiated in Germany – and vice versa*
 - *coordinating service provision from ECRIN for trials with sponsors from Germany*

Clinical trials in which the KKS-Network is responsible for central tasks:

Industrial sector 54%

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research 14%

German Research Foundation 7%

European Union 1%

German Cancer Aid 5%

Other public institutions 12%

Faculty 10%

State government 1%

Unknown: 7%

Multiple answers are possible

As per September 2011

- Coordinating centre for clinical trials in an academic institution
- Sponsor responsibilities in an academic institution
- Example: Study Center Bonn
- Network of coordinating centres for clinical trials (KKS network) in Germany

History and today

- Publicly funded trials in Germany

- Local funds of the medical faculties, e.g. in Bonn
 - small pilot trials
- German Research Foundation
 - regular funding programme; calls for phase III clinical trials
 - reduced focus on early clinical trials
 - research grants
- BMBF (German Ministry for Education and Research)
 - regular funding programme for clinical trials; depending on calls
 - via German Centers for Health Research (not open for every hospital)
- Societies/ Associations: e.g. German Cancer Aid
- Federal Joint Committee („gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss“)
 - Innovation committee - Innovation fund (§ 92b Abs. 1 SGB V)
(Health insurances/ Hospitals/ Ministries)
Support of healthcare research
 - Clinical trials with off-label use of medicinal products used (funding of medicinal products and procedure; SGB V § 35c)

...many investigator initiated trials are funded by pharma industry, but via individual contracts no general fund

Thank you very much!

...and why all these efforts? Because the patients will appreciate it!



„I stopped taking the medicine because I prefer the original disease to the side effects“