

KKS Charité

The Coordinating Centre for Clinical Trials founded in 2002 is an organisational unit of the 'Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin', the medical school of the Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin. The centre supports clinicians and businesses in all stages of the clinical trial process.

The Coordinating Centre for Clinical Trials at the Charité, which was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research from 2002 to 2008, has established itself as a transregional scientific service provider for the implementation of clinical trials.

The KKSC, headed by Dr. Alexander Krannich, is open to all interested parties as a centre of expertise and reference, acting as a platform for communication, information and interaction. The KKSC aims at creating a greater understanding of clinical trials among patients and the general population by organising special events and by developing specific public relation strategies.

Assurance of quality standards

Specific objectives of the KKSC are the assurance of quality standards in patient-oriented clinical research, the improvement of infrastructures and the qualification of study personnel. The KKSC's main focus, however, lies on study support, which is provided for approximately 100 clinical research projects every year. The majority of projects are investigator-initiated trials (87%), and five trials are funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research or the German Research Foundation. Most of the clinical trials supported focus on cardiology, dermatology, neurology and psychiatry. The KKSC cooperates with 57 out of 74 departments and institutes of the Charité.

One example for the KKSC's successful support of clinical trials is the long-time cooperation with the Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects; in this project, the KKSC has been responsible for the complete management of four clinical trials within the first funding period and of five clinical trials within the second funding period. The KKSC also supports clinical trials on surgical issues in cooperation with the German Surgical Trial Network 'CHIR-Net'.

A further topic of high priority is the qualification of clinical research personnel: Since 2003, the KKSC has offered intensive courses for all levels of study personnel. These courses have been complemented by compact courses conveying basic knowledge to investigators and directors of clinical investigation (Germany only) since December 2007 and January 2009 respectively. Additionally, the KKSC has offered job-specific medical English courses since 2008, and courses on GCP are available at regular intervals

Excellence by cooperation

The KKSC is the trial centre responsible for a number of centres of excellence, such as the Charité Comprehensive Cancer Centre (CCCC), which has been funded by the German Cancer Aid as an oncologic centre of excellence since April 2009. A further centre of excellence supported by the KKSC is the Berlin-Brandenburg Centre for Regenerative Therapy (BCRT), in which regenerative therapies for clinical application are developed by a strategic alliance between the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Helmholtz



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Association of German Research Centres. As the trial centre in charge, the KKSC coordinates the clinical trials of the centre of excellence.

A further cooperating partner of the KKSC is the Centre for Stroke Research Berlin (CBS), which has been funded as an integrated research and treatment centre by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research since 1 June 2008. The CBS is funded with a total of € 25 million over a period of five years. The KKSC supports the new interdisciplinary concept of the CSP, i.e. a translational approach encompassing all work groups ('bench to bedside' and 'bedside to bench'), by consulting on and supervising clinical research projects.

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