**Clinical Trial Accrual – Where are the Solutions?**

**Description**
Clinical research staff are responsible for enrolling patients on cancer clinical trials. Their effectiveness is hampered by a lack of easy access to evidence-based strategies, best practices and tools to support their efforts. The result is that many eligible patients do not participate in clinical trials. Recent studies indicate that a large percentage of cancer clinical trials do not accrue adequate numbers of patients and some trials fail to enroll even a single patient. The inability to complete trials in a timely manner delays the approval of potentially effective treatments. Clinical research staff would benefit from a well-organized, comprehensive, educational resource to support their accrual efforts.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) conducted formative research in community and academic oncology settings to better understand the challenges of accrual from the perspective of oncology professionals. Informed by the study findings, the NCI designed AccrualNet (http://accrualnet.cancer.gov) a free, publicly available website designed as a ‘one stop shop’ for busy professionals to quickly locate relevant literature, educational resources and other helpful tools to support their accrual efforts.

AccrualNet uses the ‘protocol recruitment lifecycle’ framework to present 53 ‘promising’ practices from the literature and formative research. The framework highlights the benefit of early planning for successful recruitment. Published literature, strategies, sample tools and templates are available to inform accrual at every stage, from protocol development through recruiting and treating patients to closing the trial and analyzing data.

AccrualNet encourages readers to comment on existing content, to contribute relevant articles and resources, to dialog with their colleagues and to engage in original research to ultimately increase the evidence-based accrual strategies literature.

AccrualNet received nearly 41,000 page views since its launch on April 30, 2010. Post-launch evaluation revealed that participants were enthusiastic about the site, liked the range and types of information, and found the site valuable in supporting their work by providing evidence.

AccrualNet is a unique interactive educational tool to support staff who participate in clinical trial recruitment by connecting them not only to valuable resources, but to each other.