

# How to be an effective Principal Investigator

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**Disclaimer**

# Goals of presentation

- Principles of being effective PI during various time points in a study
  - preparation
  - conducting
  - finishing

# Pre-study work

- Roll up your sleeves
- If you are the leader then lead
- Obtain mentorship
  - many levels
- Leave your ego at the door
- Think BIG
  - life is short do things that matter
  - don't underestimate chance
- Write protocol
  - requires enormous effort and commitment to learn how to write
    - analogy of 1<sup>st</sup> year medical student reporting hx

# Pre-study work

- Develop CRFs , support tools
  - data is time and money
- Undertake Pilot
  - 4 Goals
    - establish credibility in area
    - establish feasibility
    - publications and academic credit for major players
    - work out bugs
      - POISE-2

# Grantssssssssssssssss

- Assemble a qualified team
- Include national PIs as co-investigators on grant
  - POISE-2
- Review successful grants and model
- Go big and frugal
  - keep centre work to minimum
    - simple intervention, eligibility criteria, and CRFs
- Reapply if not successful
- Apply anywhere you can
  - granting bodies, industry, foundations
  - VISION over 40 funding sources
- If not successful and you passionately believe in the study
  - find ways to start study while reapplying
    - VISION

# Start up in countries

- You need to think through and be intricately involved
  - regulatory approval
    - speed and difficulty varies across countries
  - sort out drug labeling, packaging, and importation
  - GMP, customs, qualified person
  - national and local ethics approval
  - contracts
  - select national PIs
    - ideally people you or colleague know
    - think global
    - make national leaders prominent in study
      - selecting centres
    - some won't work out try again
  - investigator meeting
  - centre initiation

# Conducting study

- Surround yourself with a great team
  - providing training, exposure, and support
  - hold weekly meetings
  - be willing to make tough decisions
- Find your Scottish roots
  - coronary CTA study
- Find solutions to problems
  - DON'T give up
- Set the standard
  - POISE-1
- Push recruitment
  - think about motivating strategies
  - try new strategies
- Develop monitoring strategies

# Study promotion

- Maintain constant contact
- Weekly recruitment results
- Month newsletters
- Pack your suitcase
- Conference calls
- Investigator meetings
- Sub-studies and associated grants
- Publications

# Finishing a study

- Think about academic credit
  - VISION
- Plan next study
- Never forget it is about the contribution

# Summary

- If you are the leader then lead
- Get to work and set the standard
- Life is short do things that matter
- Surround yourself with a great team
- Submit grants everywhere
- Find solutions to problems
- Establish study promotion strategies
- Think about academic credit for everyone