

Subject Recruitment

How to go about enrolling subjects is an increasingly hot topic

The spotlight on subject recruitment sweeps across a number of topics and comes from various sources. Some sources focus on the information given to potential research subjects, contending that it is insufficient or incomprehensible. Some decry the way researchers advertise for subjects, claiming that offers of free medical examinations can be coercive for those who lack medical insurance.

To further complicate the issue, many researchers must not only comply with their national regulations but also with local laws. This in a global industry for which sponsor companies often provide recruitment guidance in the research protocols.

It's no wonder that people are confused.

As at least a partial antidote for that confusion, *ACT*'s publisher and I are planning to produce (this spring if all goes according to plan) a special supplement that focuses on subject recruitment. That publication can be useful and relevant only with help from our readers.

Here are a few of the ways you can contribute to our recruitment project. Drop me a line to let me know

- what kinds of national or local regulations with which you must comply
- what you see as your biggest recruitment problem

- how you have addressed—and/or solved—your worst recruitment problem
- who has offered the most valuable help to you with subject recruitment.

You surely have other comments, questions, and suggestions for a subject recruitment supplement. I'll want to hear from you about those, too.

This is also, of course, your invitation to submit a manuscript on subject recruitment. So that we don't get half a dozen that say basically the same thing, it's a good idea to chat with me about your ideas before you put a lot of time and effort into writing an article manuscript.

Here are a few ideas to start your creative juices flowing:

- How to recruit subjects in [nation/state]
- Recruiting pediatric subjects
- Ethical use of the media for subject recruitment
- Recruiting geriatric subjects
- Use your IRB to improve subject recruitment procedures
- Networking with local physicians.

The list goes on. I hope you will add to it and get in touch soon.

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