The CenterWatch Monthly

2018 Top Innovators

changing the face of the clinical trials industry

2018 Top Innovators

A s *The CenterWatch Monthly* marks its 25th year, the clinical research enterprise is on the edge of dramatic change. The power of data and analytics, patient centricity, new technologies, a rapid move toward more targeted therapies and personalized treatments, along with the need for a lower cost R&D model, are among the forces driving transformation in how the research environment will operate in the future.

The industry is comprised of smart and talented people who understand that this rapidly changing landscape offers new opportunities for innovative ideas, products and services that will drive better drug development in the next decade.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of *The CenterWatch Monthly*, we've chosen 20 Top Innovators, selected from nominations sent by readers, to honor for their novel ideas and their ability to implement them.

We believe these innovations all share a common theme: They can help drive the industry's success in delivering new medicines to patients more quickly, safely and efficiently during the next decade and beyond.

Brent Reed and Chris Clendening

PPD Laboratories

Preclarus investigator site portal and companion mobile application

PPD Laboratories has developed innovative technology that addresses decades-old issues concerning management of patient samples collected during clinical trials: Visibility gaps in the chain of custody from sites to laboratories and human errors made by investigative site staff recording data manually.

The Preclarus investigator site portal, a web-based platform accessible via a computer's standard web browser, was designed to streamline routine tasks associated with collecting samples from patients in a clinical trial, including subject registration, sample tracking and test-result reporting, and to improve interactions between sites and central labs. Launched in 2016, the portal's tools incorporated barcode scanning technology for patient samples that establishes a clear chain of custody, giving sponsors and labs real-time information about sample collection and shipping, and provides data quality checks and validation of subject information, allowing errors to be identified and corrected immediately.

Chris Clendening, executive director of Global Project Management and Design, and Brent Reed, associate director of IT, have designed the technology around site activities and included site feedback in the development and workflow design stages to increase the potential for quality and avoid developing a site portal that creates inefficiencies or adds to the technology burden at investigative sites. PPD Laboratories is continuing to expand the functionality offered within the investigator site portal to encompass more aspects of trial management. A mobile application for smartphones and tablets will be released in the second quarter of 2018, which will allow investigators, clinical trial managers and other site staff to view safety alerts, manage supplies and perform accessioning activities from any location.

"We've listened to the people at the sites who are managing trials and enrolling patients in addition to their primary responsibilities. Whether they're nurses, physicians or site managers, they're busy. We need to ensure their interactions with the technology we use are conducive to their workflows and results in a positive user experience," said Reed. "That's the fundamental premise behind the mobile app. We want sites to leverage a platform that can be accessed anywhere on a system they're familiar with."