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23 November 2021

Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Beating a dead horse

I wrote previously (3 Nov 2021) pleading to a higher authority for help in creating a single unified system of registration, rather than the 18 now in place (17 WHO regional directories and ClinicalTrials.gov).

The posting generating a lone response from Deborah Zarin – a moving force behind the creation and operation of ClinicalTrials.gov. She wrote, in part,

For what it's worth, I don't see a future in which there are fewer registries. For a host of reasons, the WHO has incentivized individual regions to create their own registries. And at the same time, individuals in those regions generally have their own career related reasons for wanting to create their own registries. There have been some "successes" (e.g., Israel opted to not create their own registry, and instead requires registration in ClinicalTrials.gov), but overall it's been a disappointing situation.

Alas, I agree with Dr. Zarin.

The chance of turning the clock back to create a single universal registry of trials is slim to none. The best we can hope for is a common data system, like that underlying ClinicalTrials.gov, to enable a joint analysis of all registered trials.