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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: The “standard” trial

It is appealing to think trials are increasingly global undertakings, but if that is what you think you are mistaken. The majority of trials registered on ClinicalTrials.gov are single center trials. If anything the trend is in the opposite direction with increasing percentages of single center trials over time.

The median number of centers for multicenter trials is 9, 6, 6, and 5, respectively, for the four years analyzed. Odds are that only a small fraction of those are multinational.

**Single center vs multicenter trials\***

Yr completed	Single center	Multicenter	Total	% single center	% multicenter
2005	4,283	3,445	7,728	55.42%	44.58%
2010	8,114	5,264	13,378	60.65%	39.35%
2015	11,336	7,358	18,694	60.64%	39.36%
2020	12,590	7,758	20,348	61.87%	38.13%

\* Based on calculated variable “Has single facility?”: yes, no; if no than multicenter with number of study centers as output.