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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: On the time it takes to do trials

Why does it take more time for the NIH to do trials than industry?

We (Gillian Gresham, Jill Meinert, Art Gresham, and me) are working on a paper comparing trials over time and across funder types as registered on CT.gov.

As seen in Table 1, the median time from start to finish for US funded trials (NIH and other US funding) is almost three times that for industry funded trials for median sample sizes less than for industry funded trials (Table 2). Is the difference just another example of “government inefficiency” or are there other explanation? Thoughts appreciated.

Table 1: Median time to completion by funding source

Yr completed	US funded: No. trials	US funded: Mdn yrs to completion	US funded: IQ (yrs)	Industry funded: No. trials	Industry funded: Mdn yrs to completion	Industry funded: IQ (yrs)	Other funded: No. trials	Other funded: Mdn yrs to completion	Other funded: IQ (yrs)
2004-08	1,619	3.16	1.92-4.91	10,009	1.17	0.50-2.09	9,798	2.42	1.25-4.00
2009-13	1,575	3.85	2.25-5.66	16,214	1.25	0.50-2.42	24,957	2.33	1.17-3.92
2014-18	1,318	3.92	2.33-6.00	15,475	1.33	0.56-2.73	34,755	2.00	1.00-3.73
Total	4,512	3.66	2.09-5.42	41,698	1.25	0.50-2.42	69,510	2.17	1.08-3.84

Table 2: Sample size of completed trials over time

Yr completed	US funded: Mdn SS	US funded: IQ range	Industry: Mdn SS	Industry: IQ range	Other funded: Mdn SS	Other funded: IQ range	Total: Mdn SS	Total: IQ range
2004-08	80	34-225	114	40-345	60	28-150	80	34-220
2009-13	53	25-146	72	31-222	59	25-130	60	30-160
2014-18	52	27-122	66	30-200	58	28-127	60	29-147
Total	60	28-160	77	32-241	59	28-131	60	30-165