

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Investigator-Led Clinical Research in Thoracic Oncology: Are We Able to Do It?

Investigação Clínica Orientada pelo Investigador em Oncologia Torácica: Será que Somos Capazes de o Fazer?

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It is undeniable the importance that investigator lead clinical trials have in improving the provision of healthcare to the population and providing patients with access to the best technological and biomedical innovation. Also clinical research also contributes, in the economic field, to attracting investments, generating jobs, retaining talent, system sustainability and regional and national development.¹

APIFARMA has been issuing reports on clinical trials investigating drugs in Portugal since 2012. They admit their importance for our country but they note Portugal's lack of competitiveness. They listed several challenges in the development such as a lack of resources; the complexity of regulation; the heterogeneity and complexity of submission to the centers, the reduced appreciation by some hospital administrations; limited coordination and support structures; lack of financial autonomy of the national Health System units. Doctors face also overload of care activities; lack of curricular appreciation.² They issued a list of recommendations of improvement that are in implementation.²

The case of investigator-led Clinical Research seems more challenging yet as we face the same challenges, and also the

lack of funding, the of lack of time allocated for research in our hospitals and often the lack of knowledge on how to implement our research.

Our community of healthcare professionals interested in Thoracic Tumors is a very dynamic and interested community, as we can see in any scientific meeting on the topic, which are frequent and always very popular and well attended.

Therefore, we must ask ourselves why we have so little investigation going on, may it be investigator lead clinical trials in Thoracic Cancer, multicenter epidemiological and cohort studies obtaining data on the Portuguese population or pragmatic clinical trials.

The direction of GECP is working in improving our situation, namely providing formation on the planning and executing a clinical trial; and helping as an aggregator of the various centers that want to participate in national projects. However, more than anything we need to participate...

Happy 2025!!!
M Teresa Almodovar

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