

Meet Your Cardiovascular & Metabolic Team

From recruitment timelines to clinical endpoints, cardiovascular and metabolic trials can present unique challenges, potentially disrupting your drug development program. Our industry thought leaders and subject matter experts are ready to consult and advise you on your next study. Meet our strategic and operational leads:



Alessandra Vignola
President, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 30+ years of experience in the pharmaceutical and clinical research industry
- Leads the Cardiovascular & Metabolic business unit at Worldwide, driving trial innovation and providing operational and strategic guidance for trial success



Monika Iten, PhD
Vice President, Project Management, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- Almost 25 years of industry experience in clinical operations, performance management, and marketing
- Oversees successful execution of large-scale, global clinical trials in cardiovascular and metabolic indications



MarieElena Cordisco, MA, NP-C, APRN
Senior Director, Therapeutic Strategy Lead, Metabolic

- 17+ years of experience with 10+ years in leadership in clinical research site management with a specialty in endocrinology
- Clinically active nurse practitioner and serves as principal and sub-investigator for cardiometabolic trials with publications in several peer-reviewed high-impact journals



Karina Castellano, MD
Senior Medical Director, Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 20 years in global Phase II-IV clinical site management and medical monitoring and 10+ years in direct patient care
- Board-certified endocrinologist, internal medicine specialist, and published author with GLP-1 experience in obesity and type 2 diabetes



Rafal Ziecina, MD, PhD, FFPM
Executive Director, Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 20+ years of experience working in pharmaceutical companies and research companies
- Offers scientific and medical leadership of cardiovascular and metabolic research and provides strategic services around filing, regulatory, and safety, and writing services for protocol and drug development plans



Bill Welder, MD
Senior Medical Director, Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 22 years in global Phase I-IV clinical development and medical monitoring and 10+ years in direct patient care
- Board-certified family physician and diabetologist with metabolic dysfunction focus and experience in GLP-1, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and metabolic rare diseases, as well as incretin, insulin, glucagon, and nutrition support therapies



Attila Timar-Peregrin, MD, PhD, DVProf
Executive Director, Medical Affairs, Digestive & Rare Disease

- 30+ years of experience of research experience as a preclinical and clinical researcher, study supervisor, principal investigator, chief investigator, and lead medical expert
- Has worked on 40+ clinical trials in gastroenterology, inflammatory and rare diseases, diabetic complications, and metabolic and hepatic conditions including MASLD



Michael F. Murphy, MD, PhD
Chief Medical and Scientific Officer, Scientific Solutions

- Co-founder of Worldwide with a distinguished career spanning 30+ years
- Received a Clinical Research & Excellence (CARE) Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the discovery/development process, including translational research, strategic program development, and facilitation of commercialization during clinical development