

Dear Society Members,

Happy New Year! As we are entering the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year's achievements, and update you on our current 2008-2009 CRCMAC initiatives.

We celebrate a productive year as our society has grown to 550 members strong and our accomplishments have been many. Highlights include:

- Established a formal CRC Mentoring Program
- Provided a forum for regular networking meetings through the Society Scoop
- Implemented career paths specific to clinical research coordination in the School of Medicine
- Improved identification of CRCs through the Clinical Research Registry
- Reviewed the Clinical Research Advisory Committee's (CRAC) work report to assist in prioritizing their recommendations and providing advice for implementation
- In conjunction with our UPHS administrative and financial offices, we evaluated the current patient billing process and assisted in providing additional justification for our senior leadership to engage external consultants to evaluate and determine a comprehensive solution

The second half of 2008 focused on planning and developing new initiatives. We convened (4) new workgroups based on input from your CRCMAC representatives:

1. Core Best Research Management Practices
2. Departmental Orientation and Training Guidelines
3. Subject Recruitment, and
4. Annual Recognition Program for CRCs

The work is well underway with each workgroup having elected chairpersons, defined output goals and meeting monthly. The chairpersons from each group will be meeting with the CRCMAC Executive Committee in February to report on the progress of the work group.

2009 will be an exciting year for the CRCMAC. The Executive Committee (EC) is working hard on filling Advisory Committee positions left open through attrition. The EC is also evaluating the charter for workability. We look forward to finalizing the recommendations that will be made from the current initiatives and continued implementation of the 2007-2008 workgroup and subcommittee report.

We continue to focus on our goal of improving the mechanism to support and develop the CRC profession, enhance collaboration with our faculty, and to improve the quality of research. This is truly an exciting endeavor that we have all been part of at Penn.

I wish all of you safe and happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at the 3rd Annual Society Event to be held in June 2009. Stay tuned for more details!

Lisa Paumen
CRCMAC, Executive Chair