

**Day 2: 15:05 – 15:20**

**Addressing the shortage of clinical research professionals: approaches and the role of the Joint Task Force (JTF)**



Barbara E. Bierer, MD, PhD

**(Faculty Director, Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard University.)**

**Short CV**

**Dr. Barbara E. Bierer**, a hematologist-oncologist, is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and the Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH).

Dr. Bierer is the Faculty Director of the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of BWH and Harvard (MRCT Center), a collaborative effort to improve standards for the planning and conduct of international clinical trials.

She is also the Director of the Regulatory Foundations, Ethics, and Law program at the Harvard Catalyst, and Director of Regulatory Policy for SMART IRB.

Among other responsibilities, she serves as Faculty in the Center for Bioethics, HMS, and Affiliate Faculty in the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law at Harvard Law School

**Abstract**

There is a significant shortage of clinical research professionals globally, a shortage that has become more severe and more consequential during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the present scarcity may be attributed in part to what has been termed “the great resignation,” it may also relate to the challenges of defining professional careers in clinical research.

Research is not a topic in the curriculum of many medical schools nor are there sufficient training and educational courses for clinical research professionals, be they investigators, study staff, data managers, or others.

The Joint Task Force on Clinical Trial Competencies (JTF), developed over a decade ago, provides a roadmap for training and evaluation internationally.

This presentation will address current challenges, possible approaches to mitigate shortages, and the appropriate use of the JTF in those solutions.