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AAHC Examines Nation's Clinical Trials Infrastructure Report Highlights Improvements, Blueprint for Future

WASHINGTON, October 23 –*The Clinical Trials Landscape: Limitations, Strengths, and Promise*, the latest report from the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC), provides an overview of the infrastructure for clinical trials in the U.S. and a blueprint for action to improve and enhance clinical trials administration in academic health centers nationwide. The infrastructure for clinical trials in the U.S.—a rarely studied, yet vital, aspect of the U.S. research enterprise—is examined in new and different ways in this groundbreaking report. Clinical trials are a critical aspect of America's preeminence in science worldwide as they facilitate discoveries to treat and cure illness and disease and improve the quality of life for countless people.

Based on the observations of organization and governance structures at academic health centers, the report assesses the stresses and challenges, delineates impediments to progress, and suggests agents of change that are the strategic imperatives for leaders to improve and enhance research, clinical trials, and compliance operations.

Key to improvement and change is an innovative “functional process map,” which describes and organizes the myriad of activities that span clinical trials administration. “This is a powerful tool for academic health centers to assess and evaluate institutional priorities as they analyze the strength of institutional resources along with personnel capabilities and needs. Academic health center leaders will find it useful to consider this roadmap as they move forward with their clinical trials program,” says AAHC president and CEO Dr. Steven Wartman. The map is also critical for ultimately developing IT solutions, where they currently do not exist.

“Clinical trials administration and oversight requires the fullest attention of academic health center leaders and this report focuses on how they can help ensure an enhanced clinical research infrastructure for the nation,” added Dr. Wartman.

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The Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC) is a national, non-profit organization that seeks to improve health and well-being through vigorous leadership of the nation's academic health centers. Academic health centers are accredited, degree-granting institutions of higher education that include medical and other health professions schools or programs and hospitals, health systems, or organized health services.

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