



Annual  
Conference  
2024

CDDF Annual Conference 2024

Changing Paradigms to Accelerate  
Drug Development

(5-7 February 2024, Noordwijk, NL)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cancer Drug Development Forum (CDDF)

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The Cancer Drug Development Forum (CDDF) Annual Conference is a unique multi-stakeholder meeting that brings together leading voices from academia, the pharmaceutical industry, regulatory authorities, and patient advocacy groups with the aim of improving cancer treatment.

In its 2024 edition, the meeting explored and analyzed innovative approaches to accelerate oncology drug development, considering the changing paradigms and regulatory environment in the field. The program focused on real world evidence, decentralized care and trials, impact of recent regulatory changes, diversity in clinical trials, and drug and biomarker combinations in oncology. It also provided reflections on the CDDF workshops held in 2023 and its joint activity with AAADV and ASCO to explore global collaboration in cancer drug development.

The interactive forum facilitated fruitful discussions and thought-provoking dialogue among stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of collaborative endeavors. Key takeaways are presented as follows:



## SESSION 1: REAL WORLD EVIDENCE

- There has been rapid growth in the availability of RWD, accompanied by efforts across regulators, academics, data holders, and the pharmaceutical industry to advance appropriate uses whilst working through the strengths and limitations of RWD. Great progress has been made with RWD, however we have significant work and much required alignment amongst key stakeholders.
- Commitment to continuous data improvement and collection is an important step in maximizing the utility of RWD to generate RWE for patient-centred regulatory decision. RCTs provide defined data, and the premise of RWD through pragmatic trials and robust RWD collection aid decision making, looking at the “totality of data”.
- The evolution of registries, Darwin EU and OPTIMA were extensively reviewed, providing insights on how these databases have advanced the RWD field. Harmonisation and robustness of data collection within member states and globally continues to be required to ensure robust RWD to support decision making.



## SESSION 3: DECENTRALIZED CARE AND TRIALS

- The **Covid-19** pandemic has ushered in a period of rapid change. However, as we look ahead, there appears to be **little indication that we will be capitalising on the lessons learned during this time.**
- The FDA has released a **draft guidance on decentralised trials.** The incorporation of elements from this guidance into trials will vary depending on the context, with a focus on enhancing patient involvement and facilitating access to new medications.
- Various **digital solutions platforms** are currently in development, with a specific emphasis on **patient-centricity** aimed at improving the patient experience, reducing costs, and lowering carbon emissions, all while **expediting project timelines.**
- There is **strong patient support for digital solutions** such as wearables.
- It is crucial to **design technology with a focus on the perspective of patients and caregivers.** The widespread acceptance of these innovations will largely depend on ensuring a positive and meaningful patient experience.
- It may be necessary to **maintain both traditional and digital options** to accommodate the diverse needs of all patients.





## SESSION 4-1: IMPACT OF RECENT REGULATORY CHANGES

- Project Frontrunner is an accelerated approval pathway for a therapy in relapsed/refractory settings that demonstrate an advantage over available therapy. FDA is looking forward to engaging with stakeholders to discuss considerations for trial design and trial setting that is most appropriate for the initiative (case-by-case basis discussions since one-size does not fit all).
- Two presentations from members of FDA and MPA addressed expedited approval pathways in the respective regions. Questions discussed included how bridge the differences in patient population and, at times, benefit-risk between late line studies and confirmatory studies in earlier lines.
- EU CTR has delivered on i) harmonization of part 1 requirements, ii) clarity & predictability of assessment timelines, iii) structured data requirements in CTIS and, iv) Pan-European approvals. Sponsors embrace the new regulation, however, further enhancements are needed (eg. CTIS, further harmonization of the assessments, more flexibility of submission pathways) to make Europe a competitive place for clinical research.
- EU Pharmaceutical Legislation: The proposal is under consultation and it is unclear whether it will be passed by the European Parliament in this current period. The most controversial part is the changes to the market exclusivity rules and quite diverse changes and amendments currently being discussed. From patients' point of view, there is a concern that the definition of unmet medical need might not include their perspective. In the discussion, the point was made that narrow definitions of key terms may turn out to be too restrictive in the future when scientific innovation changes context.

FACILITATE DEBATE ACTIVATE INNOVATE



## SESSION 4-2: DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL TRIALS

The panel discussion focused on two questions regarding the efforts to better represent relevant minority populations that are not yet sufficiently included in clinical trials.

The first was to assess the current status of effort to achieve better diversity and inclusion in Europe.

- What the European populations are not adequately represented in pivotal oncology clinical trials? What markers of geographic ancestry, socio-economic or functional status do we need?
- Health literacy is an important and underrated aspect of access to clinical trials and advanced cancer care.
- There is a strong need to establish a detailed epidemiological understanding of the target population already at start of drug development.

The second question addressed the challenges that will occur when the data of additional subgroups becomes available.

- The panelists agreed on the dangers of uncontrolled interpretation of subgroups with both false negative and false positive conclusions.
- Regulators pointed out that these have occurred in the past and were discussed in the assessment reports.
- Possible variations in activity or safety should be spotted as early as possible and context provided to facilitate the correct interpretation of these findings.
- For some populations, e.g. the frail elderly, separate trials might be necessary to assure the safe use of innovative treatments.



## SESSION 5: DRUG AND BIOMARKER COMBINATION

- Academic platform Trials/cross-Europe collaboration via consortia such as PRIME-ROSE is a route to validate activity and lead to extension of licence in rare cancers.
- The complexity of exploring optimal dose, impact of biomarker expression, as well as combination of agents (modified by target expression) requires careful consideration with respect to drug development.
- IVDR related obstacles to clinical trials need to be resolved as soon as possible.



Meeting recordings and presentation slides are available to patient advocates, regulators, academics and CDDF Members via the CDDF intranet platform (<https://cddf.org/member-access/>)



Collaboration and open dialogue among all stakeholders are key to accelerate the development and delivery of oncology drugs



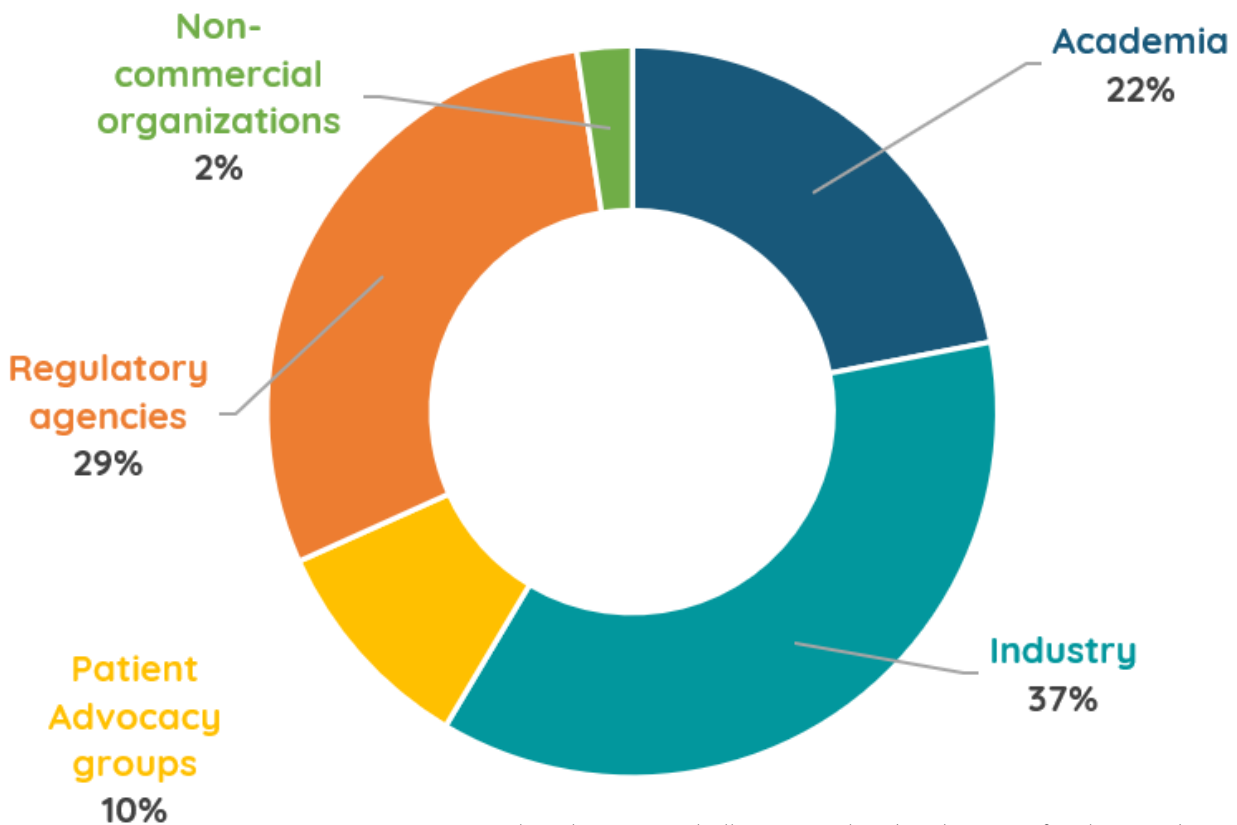


# AUDIENCE AT THE CDDF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

CDDF's meetings present a wide range of perspectives from various stakeholders who are involved in the development of oncology drugs. Our multi-stakeholder, collaborative approach facilitates a productive dialogue in a neutral, non-competitive space in order to accelerate effective cancer drug development.



## Onsite Participants & Speakers



The above graph illustrates the distribution of online and onsite speakers/chairpersons/panelists along with onsite attendees.

**152**  
ONLINE  
ATTENDEES

**82**  
IN-PERSON  
ATTENDEES





# WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY ABOUT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

"I liked the lively discussions where people were not shy and coming forward with their thoughts and views. That gave me lots to think about on my journey home."

Richard Price  
European Cancer Organisation (ECO), BE

"I learned so much and I really value the thoughtful and deliberative nature of the sessions. It honestly was one of the best conferences I've attended in a long time."

Debbie Keatley  
Independent Cancer Patients' Voice (ICPV), UK

"We are extremely aware of the significance of having multi-stakeholder discussions about important topics in oncology. I think CDDF is an excellent forum to reach a number of different audiences and spread the message about many initiatives that we have at the agency."

Francesco Pignatti  
European Medicines Agency (EMA), NL

"The conference is very accessible, open and intimate and makes it easy to go talk to anybody and network. Discussions are packed with information and to the point."

Ruth Curley  
Ryvu, PL

"What I like most at the meeting is facilitated dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders involved in oncology drug development."

Dana Gabriela Marin  
National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices  
of Romania

"It was nice to see at the conference that we all agreed that we need to work on diversity in clinical trials in Europe and advanced our discussions on how we do it. Hopefully there will be more coming potentially with a pilot."

Katrin Rupalla  
Johnson & Johnson, CH

*The views expressed in this page are the personal views of the participants and may not be understood as being made on behalf of or reflecting the position of the regulatory agency/agencies or organisations with which the participants are employed/affiliated.*

## Multi-Stakeholder Workshop (Hybrid) Clinical Research in Central and Eastern Europe

15 – 16 April 2024  
Krakow (PO)



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

### Clinical Research in Central and Eastern Europe

15 - 16 April 2024  
Krakow, PL





CDDF & EORTC JOINT WORKSHOP

### Innovation and Access in Rare Cancers

23-24 September 2024  
Amsterdam, NL



## Multi-Stakeholder Workshop (Hybrid) Innovation and Access in Rare Cancers

23 – 24 September 2024  
Amsterdam (NL)

## CDDF Live Webinar Cancer Medicines Forum

25 June 2024. 16:00-17:00 CEST  
Online



LIVE WEBINAR

### Cancer Medicines Forum

Denis Lacombe (EORTC, BE)

25 June 2024  
16:00-17:00 CEST




#ESMO24

ESMO CONGRESS 2024 -  
EDUCATIONAL SESSION

### ESMO-CDDF: Regulatory Challenges in Clinical Cancer Drug Development

Monday 16 September 2024  
08:30-10:00 CET,  
Hall 7 at Cartagena Auditorium



## ESMO-CDDF joint session Regulatory Challenges in Clinical Cancer Drug Development

16 September 2024, 08:30-10:00 CET  
CC5 – Zaragoza Auditorium, Barcelona (ES)



We thank all our program committee members, speakers, panelists, Industry members, and participants for their invaluable inputs and engagement.



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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

## Cancer Drug Development Forum (CDDF)

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