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**The Clinical and Contract Research Association (CCRA) Launches Affiliate Membership**

The Clinical and Contract Research Association (CCRA), the UK trade association representing the CRO sector, is delighted to announce the launch of Affiliate Membership. Up until now membership has been focussed entirely on corporate bodies but now Affiliate status is offered to individuals who are freelancers and contract workers within the clinical research industry. By being part of a trade organisation these members will have a voice in shaping the future of the industry whilst increasing the recognition of their profession.

The Affiliate Membership offers the opportunity to build this category of membership into what the members need. There are no pre-conceived ideas as to what events, courses etc. should be run and what they will entail. It will be up to the membership to steer this chapter of members through its own committees, allowing them to progress not only the industry but also their careers.

We have identified that the skills shortage is the biggest threat to the clinical trials industry within the UK. To combat this, CCRA have been instrumental in hastening the release of the CRA Gold Standard from Cogent Skills, the UK's strategic body for skills based within the science industries, and is currently developing the accredited Trainer Standard. It is intended that this qualification will eventually be awarded chartered status for a formal recognition of the profession.

CCRA offers Affiliates a whole range of benefits including, amongst others, discounted professional indemnity insurance. Full information and registration please go to [www.ccra.org.uk](http://www.ccra.org.uk)