Yoanni Th. Matsakis

The convergence of e-health & clinical research reshaping the stakeholders' landscape

Over the last few years, the approach in drug development has markedly evolved. Drugs are increasingly oriented to treat special sub-populations of patients presenting special pathological conditions instead of being, as in the past, broadly administered to populations of patients with more or less similar characteristics. As a consequence, the development of “patient-centric” or “patient-oriented’ clinical research results in the use of a large number of new methodological approaches. These include real life studies, personalized medicine, drug delivery with smarter systems (including assessment of compliance) or use of medical devices and mobile health applications, in a more collaborative environment. Whilst EDC and ePRO systems aimed at gaining information directly from the patient himself are now used in routine, collaborative e-health solutions including connected medical devices, patient companion solutions and new methodologies for data analysis are increasingly used creating opportunities for a number of new stakeholders. These include GAFA, telecom operators, assistance companies, medical social networks, big data analysis companies, e-health software vendors, CROs… As a consequence, the design and conduct of clinical trials requires a broad range of new types of expertise, generating both new opportunities and unprecedented challenges.