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# Dearth of clinical research professionals in India

**"T**HERE is a shortage of faculties and trained clinical research professionals, despite having adequate infrastructure for conducting clinical trials," said Mohan Bhandari Chairman and Managing Director of Bilcare Research.

According to the McKinsey report, in another three to five years, there will be demand for around 50,000 trained professionals in this field. But the availability is not more than 10 per cent, he said.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Clinical Research Academy launched by the Bilcare Research, service provider to the pharmaceutical companies, Bhandari said that by 2020, the market for clinical research could touch 2 billion dollars and the industry would require approximately 20,000 to 50,000 trained personnel.

Additional Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare, Usha Ganesh also said that there is a shortage of staff, doctors and

specialists despite having 36 medical colleges, 3,000 nursing schools and several institutes for paramedical staffs. The trained personnel are migrating to developed countries and this is a global phenomenon.

She said, "Presently there is a shift from the control of contagious diseases to communicable diseases. We are able to tackle diseases like small pox, polio and malaria. But we are facing problems in diseases like diabetes, cancer and HIV/AIDS. Clinical trial is conducted on HIV/AIDS drugs in the Northern districts," she said.

## Clinical Research Academy

The Academy is established in the premises of the Bangalore Diabetes Hospital. In alliance with the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP), the Academy offers a post graduate diploma in Clinical Trail Management (PGDCTM).

On completion of the programme, a student will be offered a Bilcare-ACRP diploma. With 50 seats in each batch, the admission procedure begins with an online test. For details, contact 6535 4475.

Senior Vice President Pfizer Inc and President of Pfizer Global Research and Development Dr John L LaMattina said, "We are looking at India for clinical trails because of the quality of work, medical facilities and lower costs. To upgrade healthcare facilities, there is a need for conducting more clinical trails."

Bilcare intends to produce around 5,000 world-class clinical research professionals by 2010. In three years, it plans to set up around 25 research centres with an investment of 100 crores in Asia.

— DIPANNITA DAS