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Bilcare to set up training centres

Our Bureau

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PHARMA packaging major Bilcare hopes to invest around Rs 100 crore in setting up centres for training professionals in clinical trial management (CTM). The second of such centres has been set up in Bangalore with plans to open facilities in Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Mumbai, said Mr Mohan Bhandari, chairman and managing director of Bilcare, which has formed Bilcare Research Academy. The second facility allows students to gain hands-on training thanks to Bilcare's tie-up with Bangalore Diabetes Hospital. Bilcare, he said, was partnering with US-based Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP).

"India can play a major role in clinical research. Today, as an association, over 30% of our members are located outside the US," said Mr Thomas Adams, CEO and president of ACRP. A McKinsey study indicates that India needs around 30,000 to 50,000 clinical research professionals by 2010. Mr John LaMattina, senior VP of Pfizer, who was present on the occasion, said, companies like his were investing in India not just driven by the cost factor. "We are impressed by the quality and the number of trial subjects. The research done in India will help to address the growing need for medical cure for many ailments," he added.