

Meet Your Cardiovascular & Metabolic Team

From recruitment timelines to clinical endpoints, cardiovascular and metabolic trials can present unique challenges, potentially disrupting your drug development program. Our industry thought leaders and subject matter experts are ready to consult and advise you on your next study. Meet our strategic and operational leads:



Alessandra Vignola
President, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 30+ years of experience in the pharmaceutical and clinical research industry
- Leads the Cardiovascular & Metabolic business unit at Worldwide, driving trial innovation and providing operational and strategic guidance for trial success



Monika Iten, PhD
Vice President, Project Management, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- Almost 25 years of industry experience in clinical operations, performance management, and marketing
- Oversees successful execution of large-scale, global clinical trials in cardiovascular and metabolic indications



Natalia Castro
Executive Director, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 20 years of experience in clinical trial planning, execution, and management, with a specialized focus on obesity and metabolic disorders
- Robust experience leading large multi-site studies, reducing startup timelines, and skillfully meeting service targets



Irak Leon Ofarrill
Executive Director, Project Management

- 20+ years of experience in Clinical Development, Development Operations, Alliance Management, Project Management and Clinical Operation.
- Has led the implementation of fully decentralized/ virtual clinical trials involving biologics, immunosuppressive drugs, combination products, respiratory agents across all global regions including China and Japan



Eteri Tsetsckhladze, MD, PhD, FESC, FACC
Vice President, General Medicine Medical Lead, Medical Affairs

- 20+ years of service with Worldwide, supporting 100+ studies and credited on 50+ publications
- Currently oversees Worldwide's Cardiometabolic and Renal, General Medicine, Rare Disease, and Early Phase franchises



Rafal Ziecina, MD, PhD, FFPM
Executive Director, Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 20+ years of experience working in pharmaceutical companies and research companies
- Offers scientific and medical leadership of cardiovascular and metabolic research and provides strategic services around filing, regulatory, and safety, and writing services for protocol and drug development plans



Attila Timar-Peregrin, MD, PhD, DVProf
Executive Director, Medical Affairs, Digestive & Rare Disease

- 30+ years of experience of research experience as a preclinical and clinical researcher, study supervisor, principal investigator, chief investigator, and lead medical expert
- Has worked on 40+ clinical trials in gastroenterology, inflammatory and rare diseases, diabetic complications, and metabolic and hepatic conditions including MASLD



Lorena Velazquez
Senior Medical Director, Mexico

- Board-certified endocrinologist and clinical researcher with over 15 years of proven expertise in thyroid diseases, diabetes, obesity, and rare disease
- Extensive experience in bridging, cardiac safety, dose range, equivalence, first-in-human, food effect, open-label, pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, post-marketing surveillance, proof of concept, randomized placebo-controlled, renal and hepatic impairment, and single/multiple ascending dose studies



Karina Castellano, MD
Senior Medical Director, Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular & Metabolic

- 20 years in global Phase II-IV clinical site management and medical monitoring and 10+ years in direct patient care
- Board-certified endocrinologist, internal medicine specialist, and published author with GLP-1 experience in obesity and type 2 diabetes



MarieElena Cordisco, MA, NP-C, APRN
Senior Director, Therapeutic Strategy Lead, Metabolic

- 17+ years of experience with 10+ years in leadership in clinical research site management with a specialty in endocrinology
- Clinically active nurse practitioner and serves as principal and sub-investigator for cardiometabolic trials with publications in several peer-reviewed high-impact journals



Michael F. Murphy, MD, PhD
Chief Medical and Scientific Officer, Scientific Solutions

- Co-founder of Worldwide with a distinguished career spanning 30+ years
- Received a Clinical Research & Excellence (CARE) Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the discovery/development process, including translational research, strategic program development, and facilitation of commercialization during clinical development