

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Method

In 2004, the SoCRA Board of Directors asked Board members Yuka Sato (Director of the society) and Robert Yon (Secretary of the society) to develop a series of data points and a survey that would help to illustrate the status of clinical research professionals in a variety of settings. In December 2004, SoCRA asked the clinical researchers in its database to complete an on-line survey. Later, in early 2005, SoCRA contracted with research consultant Dr. Peter DePaulo to analyze the data and develop a series of statistical reports that would be helpful to the clinical research community.

A total of 1,604 individuals responded to the request to participate in the survey. However, due to non-response to individual questions, the effective sample sizes for most questions ranged from 1,550 to 1,590. Respondents included 1,424 members and 144 non-members (plus 36 others who did not identify their membership status).

On almost all questions, data are shown separately for members and non-members, although in most cases these two subgroups did not differ significantly. In all other cases, the data from a subgroup is shown separately if the subgroup differed significantly (from all other respondents who answered the question) at the .05 significance level, i.e., the 95% confidence level. However, in the case of a subgroup variable with more than two levels (e.g., title, region), a particular subgroup was not examined for significance unless an omnibus test such as an overall ANOVA or chi square revealed significance at the 95% level or better.

In this report, the data are presented in the order that the questions appeared on the questionnaire, except that the data from the last three questions (Q30, Q31, and Q32) are presented first. These three questions covered Annual Compensation, Type of Compensation, and Benefits. In the Detailed Subgroup Analyses that follow this Executive Summary, the section that probably will be of greatest interest is the first one, the Annual Salary/Compensation breakdown.

So as not to overwhelm the reader with hundreds of additional, minuscule differences, the sections on subgroup differences do not show every percentage

that differs from the total-sample figure at the 95% confidence level. Dr. DePaulo used discretion in deciding which to show and which to omit. For example, he does not show percentages for subgroups with $N < 70$, except in the case of the salary medians, for which subgroups as small as $N=50$ are shown. Also, some percentage differences (compared to the total sample) of less than 7% are not included unless they seemed worth noting in particular cases. The purpose of these analyses was to convey some understanding of various segments of the SoCRA database rather than to provide a complete, encyclopedic listing of every statistically significant difference between subgroups.

Throughout this report, “significant” or “significantly different” refers to statistical reliability, which does not necessarily mean “important.” A difference that is greater than would be expected by chance may be trivial or meaningless to particular readers, depending on their needs.