

## “Against All Odds – A Clinical Trial Journey”



**Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

**Time: 11 am – 12 pm (ET)**

**Location: Zoom - [Registration Required](#)**



### **Presenter: Mary Fowler Simmons**

A devoted mother, wife, and church deacon, Mary dedicated 29 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Senior Research Administrator. Following an unexpected diagnosis of an aggressive cancer, she navigated the complexities of an oncology clinical trial alongside her research team. Now surviving and thriving, Mary serves as a Cancer Champion for the VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, an ambassador for the American Cancer Society’s Voices of Black Women, an ambassador for Blood Cancer United, and is a first-time author chronicling her journey.

**Description:** *“Saying yes to a clinical trial isn’t as easy as just signing a form. It’s not just paperwork. It’s a decision that pulls at every part of you, your logic, your fears, your history.”*

*‘It is vital that people’s voices are heard and that funding research that can save lives—something I can personally confirm as a participant in a clinical trial’.*

- Mary Fowler Simmons

Join us as we learn about Mary’s journey from the perspective of a clinical trial participant and how the journey was a partnership.

**Learning Objectives:** At the conclusion of this presentation, the learner will be able to:

- Describe clinical trials as a treatment option
- Recognize informed consent processes and elements from the participant perspective
- Discuss how to address participant’s questions and concerns during the conduct of a clinical trial

### **JTF Competencies: #2 – Ethical and Participant Safety; #8 – Communication and Teamwork**

*CE: 1.0 CE credit hour for SOCRA CCRP Renewal. **Only SOCRA members participating in 90% of the virtual meeting will receive Certificates of Attendance.** The Society of Clinical Research Associates ([SOCRA](#)) accepts documentation of candidate participation in continuing education programs for re-certification if the program is applicable to clinical research regulations, operations or management, or to the candidate’s clinical research therapeutic area.*

*Please share this announcement with your colleagues.  
SOCRA members and non-members are welcomed!*

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