

# STInG DATA AND SAFETY MONITORING BOARD (DSMB) MENTORING PROGRAM

## WHAT IS ACTA STING?

The **Statistics in Trials Interest Group (STInG)** brings together over 200 statisticians, data analysts, and clinicians to promote the importance of statistics in clinical trials and registries. Its goals include enhancing collaboration, providing a support network, and improving the statistical quality of clinical trials in Australia. It provides professional development opportunities, such as mentoring programs for **Data and Safety Monitoring Boards/Committees (DSMB/C)**, and hosts initiatives like "STInG Chat" to discuss careers and best practices.

## WHAT IS THE DSMB MENTORING PROGRAM?

The ACTA STInG DSMB mentoring program was established in 2021 to facilitate and support training for statisticians in the role of a DSMB statistician. Statisticians are essential members of DSMBs but the number of statisticians in Australia with expertise and experience to fulfill the role does not meet the growing demand. This mentoring program aims to address this shortage by providing 'on-the-job' training for statisticians. The model for the ACTA STInG DSMB mentoring program revolves around meetings for one or more DSMBs on which the mentor is the DSMB statistician and the mentee acts as a silent observer of the DSMB process.

## WHO ACTS AS MENTOR?

The DSMB statistician will meet with the mentee before and after each DSMB meeting to prepare and discuss proceedings.

## WHAT WILL THE MENTEE DO?

The mentee will act as a silent observer at DSMB meetings and will not have a vote. They will have access to the same documents as the DSMB statistician and be included in all communication between the DSMB members. Similar to the DSMB statistician, they are bound by the same confidentiality measures.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE DSMB?

The DSMB will have to agree and include the mentee in all communication. There will be no change to the DSMB operations.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE STUDY TEAM?

- The study team will have to agree and include the mentee in all communication between the study team and DSMB. There will be no change to the study team operations.
- Confidentiality or conflicts of interest statements may need to be provided (e.g. email agreeing the mentee can sit on meetings) and signed by the mentee.
- DSMB charter: It is strongly advised that the mentee's role is captured in the DSMB charter to document who has access to confidential information during the open and closed meeting. This may imply updating the charter if the mentee joins an established DSMB.

### Ready to Get Involved?

For more information, email [dsmb.program@acta.au](mailto:dsmb.program@acta.au) or visit our webpage.

