

CRACONNECT LIVE 2026

The first conference built for CRAs happened, and it was *GREAT!*

Two days in Barcelona where the people who run clinical trials on the ground finally had a room of their own — and why the CRA's next chapter is being written by CRAs.

12-13 May 2026 • Barcelona • Poble Espanyol



 craconnect | Barcelona, 12-13 May 2026





CRACONNECT LIVE is part of a **year-round home for CRAs**

CRAConnect is the global home for Clinical Research Associates — a professional community, an education platform, and the annual conference that brings it into one room. It started with a simple gap: the people at the heart of every trial had nowhere built for them. So we built it.

45,000+

CRAs in our network

2,000+

Active members in our learning community

36+

Countries represented across the ecosystem

THE ACADEMY & COMMUNITY

One membership: expert-led certified CRA training, verifiable badges, 2,000+ peers, live monthly sessions, mentorship cycles, and first access to exclusive CRA roles.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CRACONNECT LIVE — the one event a year the whole CRA community meets in person. Everything in this report is what happened when it did, in May 12-13, 2026 in Barcelona.



231 CRAs from 29 countries filled a room that existed **for them**

The first event in the world built entirely for the professionals at the heart of every clinical trial.

CRACONNECT LIVE 2026 filled the room — a focused, two-day gathering of clinical monitoring professionals.

231

CRAs in one room

29

Countries represented

18

Sessions across two days

32

Speakers on the stage

160

1:1 meetings — every slot sold out

4

Partners backing the first edition

 **craconnect** | Barcelona, 12-13 May 2026



The main stage at Poble Espanyol, Barcelona

CRACONNECT LIVE 2026 opens.





The State of the CRA in 2026: **seven themes** carried the room

01 · The CRA role is evolving, not disappearing

"The role is evolving, and the level is higher. This is not going away."

— Arielle Valette, Assoc. Director, Clinical Project Management, IQVIA

05 · Human skills are the real differentiator

"Hard skills you can learn. What makes a CRA outstanding are the soft skills."

— Leandro Santos, Associate Director, Country Operations, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

02 · From 100% SDV to risk-based, pattern thinking

"Start asking what the issue is telling you about the system."

— Smaranda Doucet, Founder, FlowTrial · the PSI framework: Pattern·System·Impact

06 · AI as an assistant, not a replacement

"The human always in the loop. AI surfaces signals, humans make the call."

— Sammar Mekki & Jena Daniels, Medable · Opening Keynote

03 · Think like an auditor; own the process, not just the data

"What is not documented has never happened. Trust — but check."

— Dorian di Betta, GCP Quality Auditor, Sanofi

07 · The human cost, said out loud

"Burnout isn't a personal weakness. It's a systemic problem."

— Monika Czerwiński, Executive Director, Clinical Trials Operations

04 · From "road warrior" to site owner

"Explain the reason behind your request — that's what creates a real partnership with the site."

— Nacho Solans, Clinical Operations Manager, ICON

The CRA in an **AI-enabled world**

Medable opened CRACONNECT LIVE 2026 not with a slide, but with a working demonstration of a clinical monitoring agent — "co-designed and co-built with global CRAs" — and used it to answer the question hanging over the whole room: if AI can read the data, what's left for the CRA?

The answer wasn't the one people feared. As one CRA put it from the floor, "*the CRA of the future isn't the person who gathers the information, it's the person who acts on it.*" The agent aggregates across CTMS, EDC, IRT and the TMF and surfaces what matters, but the guardrail was repeated all session: the human is always in the loop: the agent surfaces the signals, the human makes the call. It closed queries, drafted pre-visit letters, even translated them — always under the CRA's approval, always leaving an audit trail in the CRA's own name, with early metrics of roughly 62% time saved on routine tasks.

The room pressed hard on trust: hallucinations, audit trails, prompt security, and Medable pointed to daily validation, complete logs and platform-level guardrails. The takeaway set the tone for two days: the future of monitoring isn't CRAs or AI — it's CRAs, with better tools, doing the part of the job that always mattered most.



Medable opens CRACONNECT LIVE 2026 — the keynote on the main stage.



All 18 sessions, **built around the CRA**

Redefining Monitoring: Clinical Monitoring in an AI-Enabled World

Opening Keynote · Sammar Mekki & Jena Daniels, Medable

What Sponsors Want from CRAs

Leandro Santos, Alexion

From Site Selection to First Patient

Laura Van Vaeck, Franklyn Health

The CRA Role in 2026: Are We Ready for What's Next?

Panel · IQVIA · Caidya · CRAConnect

The CRA Mindset Shift

Smaranda Doucet, FlowTrial

The CRA of Tomorrow: How ICON Is Redefining the Role

Nacho Solans, ICON

Beyond SDV: The Soft Skills That Define Great CRAs

Panel · AstraZeneca · PSI · the Clinical Monitor · Monocytes

AI Tech vs Human Insight: Can They Coexist?

Panel · Menken Trials · FlowTrial

Prevent, Detect, Respond: Mastering Risk & Integrity

Belen Basabe, Thermo Fisher (PPD)

The Hidden Cost of Being a CRA: Burnout & Balance

Panel · Monika Czerwiński · Tihomira Leteyski · Charlotte Loe

Decentralized Clinical Trials

Cristina Florescu Moraid, Camina Medical Experts





From career design to **the closing keynote**

Designing a CRA Career

Theodora Savlovschi-Wicks, Vivexa Partners

Crossing the Digital Chasm: AI-First Trial Operations

Andrea Bastek, Florence

Monitoring in the Time of RBQM

Sarah Gill, Caidya

Why CRAs Should Think Like Auditors

Dorian di Betta, Sanofi

Career Pathways: From CRA to Clinical Operations Leader

Mushi Dustagheer, IQVIA

From the Site's Perspective: Building Strong CRA–Site Partnerships

Panel · Pratia · more

Closing Keynote: What the Future Holds for CRAs

Arielle Valette, IQVIA





Where the room turned into **a network**

Networking is how CRA careers grow — a mentor found over coffee, a peer going through exactly the same thing, an opportunity that starts as a conversation.

160

1:1 meetings — the **maximum** slots we had within the 2-hour networking lounge, fully booked within two days of the networking stage opening in the app

Hundreds

Of conversations beyond the slots — over coffee breaks, lunches and the drinks after Day 1

ONE STORY OUT OF MANY

"Thanks to CRACONNECT LIVE, I met so many other CRAs and got to know several managers present at the event — which eventually led me through a selection process. I've finally been hired as an Assistant CRA!"



— Berta, CRA · CRACONNECT LIVE 2026



PILLAR 2 · NETWORKING

The network doesn't end **when the room empties**

CRACONNECT LIVE is the doorway into a private educational community that runs all year long — a network of **45,000+ CRAs** , plus a private community and academy of **2,000+ active members across 36+ countries**.





WHO WAS IN THE ROOM

Your peers — **not a passive audience**

76% experienced CRAs

15% aspiring CRAs

9% freelance CRAs

29 countries

32 speakers — Thermo Fisher · IQVIA · ICON · Sanofi · Medable · more



From Albania, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.



OUR 2026 PARTNERS

The companies who **backed the first one**



PLATINUM PARTNER

Medable

Advancing decentralized and digitally enabled clinical trials. Medable opened CRACONNECT LIVE 2026 and set the theme the room returned to for two days.



PARTNER

Thermo Fisher Scientific

Through its PPD clinical research services, supporting the full spectrum of clinical trial delivery — brought straight to the CRACONNECT LIVE stage.



PARTNER

Florence Healthcare

eISF, eTMF and document management that streamline site and sponsor workflows for inspection-ready clinical trials.



PARTNER

Menken Trials

Integrated eTMF, eISF and CRA-focused workspace tools keeping trials continuously inspection-ready.



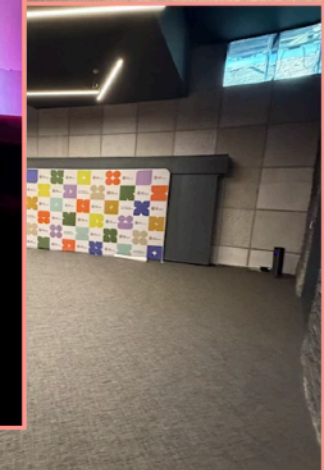
THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

CRACONNECT LIVE 2027

We're going bigger: a bigger stage at the iconic **Torre Agbar**, more CRAs, more speakers, more partners — Barcelona, 11–12 May 2027, growing to 300 CRAs.

First, an exclusive ticket release reserved for the CRAs who joined us in 2026 — at the most economic rate we'll ever offer, before early bird even begins. Available for a very short time only.

Join the 2027 waitlist → craconnectlive.com





CRAAs will show up for each other.

CRACONNECT LIVE 2026 proved it. Thank you to every speaker, partner and CRA who made the first one real. See you in Barcelona.

→ craconnectlive.com

Barcelona

