



Society for Clinical Data Management  
DATA DRIVEN

Theme:  
Capabilities | Collaboration |  
Change on the way to Clinical Data Science

**SCDM** **Live**

India conference

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022  
Radisson Blu Hotel, Bengaluru

# *Trial without a brick-and-mortar site....*

## Decentralized Clinical Trials:

- Also known as hybrid, virtual, remote or Direct to Patients (DtP) trials, where part of or all of the trial happens outside a traditional physical clinic or trial site

## Never done or known before:

- Though the term Decentralized Trials was more used during this pandemic that hit us in 2020, it was first time initiated in 2011, when entirely web-based trial, REMOTE, under an Investigational New Drug application, was carried out by Pfizer
- COVID-19 pandemic significantly catalyzed the adoption of decentralized clinical trials due to physical distancing and health-system resources packed in COVID-19-related care



# Why **'YES'** to DCT ??? What are the Pros.....

- **Controlling Clinical Study attrition**

- Helping in Patient recruitment and retention
- Use of digital technology for recruitment help participants to identify trials for which they are eligible and researchers or healthcare professionals to identify potentially suitable participants for their trial
- **Examples of Digital Technologies used:** automated SMS; audio and video messages; radio and television advertising; online advertising; social media, smartphone apps, pop-up computer screen reminders and emails

- **More Flexibility:**

- Provides patient-centered approach by allowing used of virtual tools such as telemedicine and wearable devices to carry out remote visits and monitor data
- Regulatory committees have created guidance/instructions to follow the use of alternative clinical-trial approaches (such as remote monitoring, drug shipments to patient homes, home nursing, and alternative sites)

- **Management of therapy:**

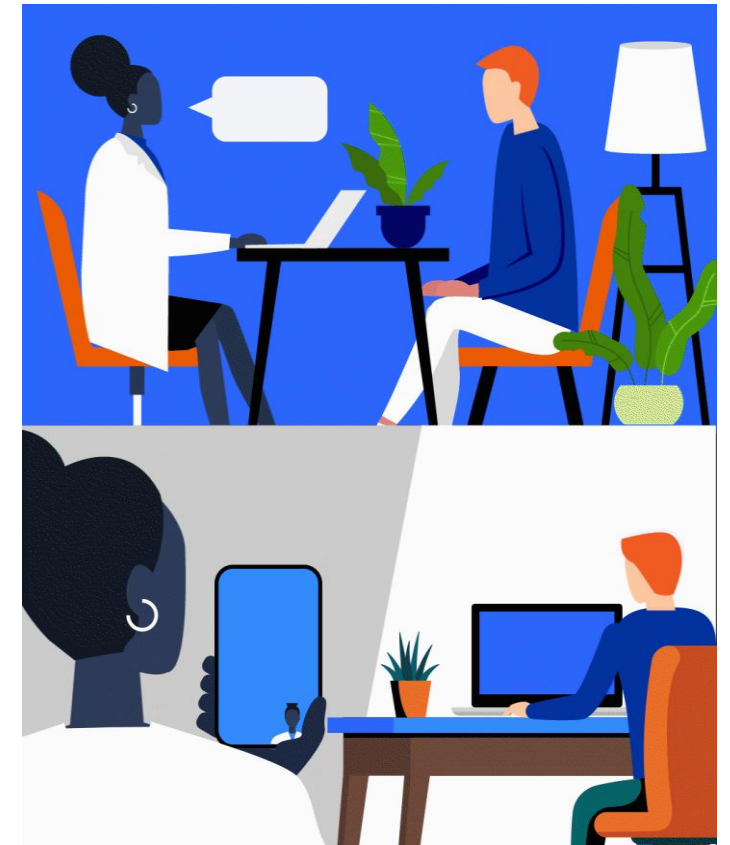
- Direct-to-patient shipment of the therapy (drug or medical device)
- Time required for distribution, inventories and storage-related logistics for study supplies
- Will always be compliant to with Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

- **Improved data diversity:**

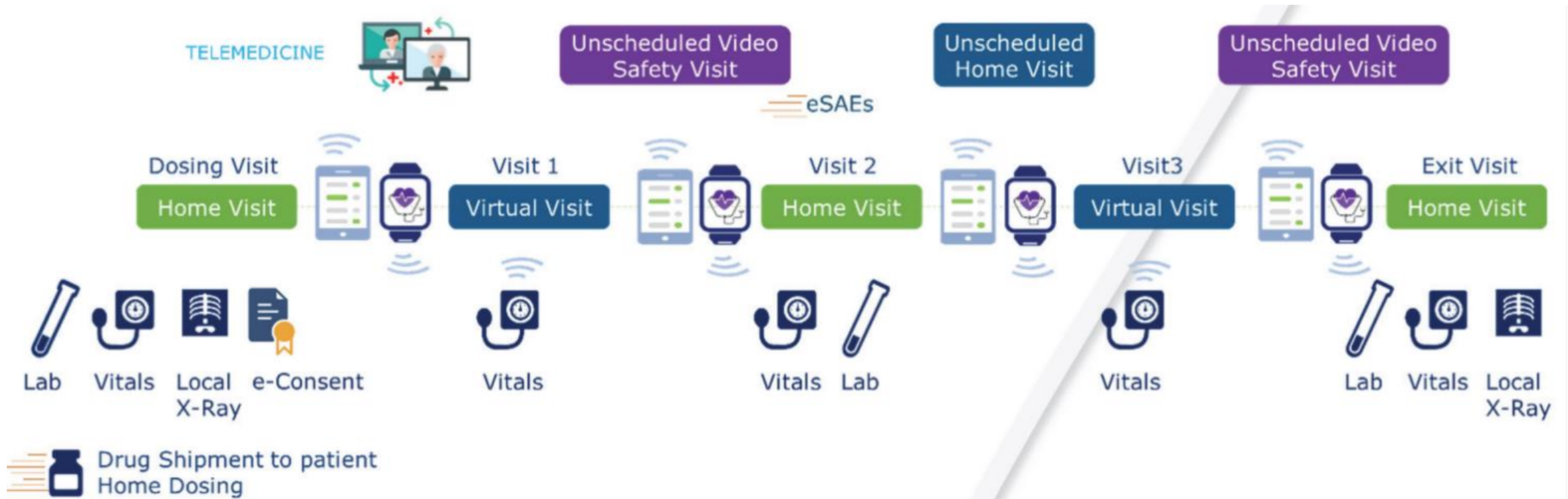
- Decrease geographic barriers
- Diverse populations can be included, thus enhancing integrity of study
- Gathering more diverse and applicable data by monitoring patients remotely in real-time

# Why **'YES'** to DCT ??? What are the Pros.....

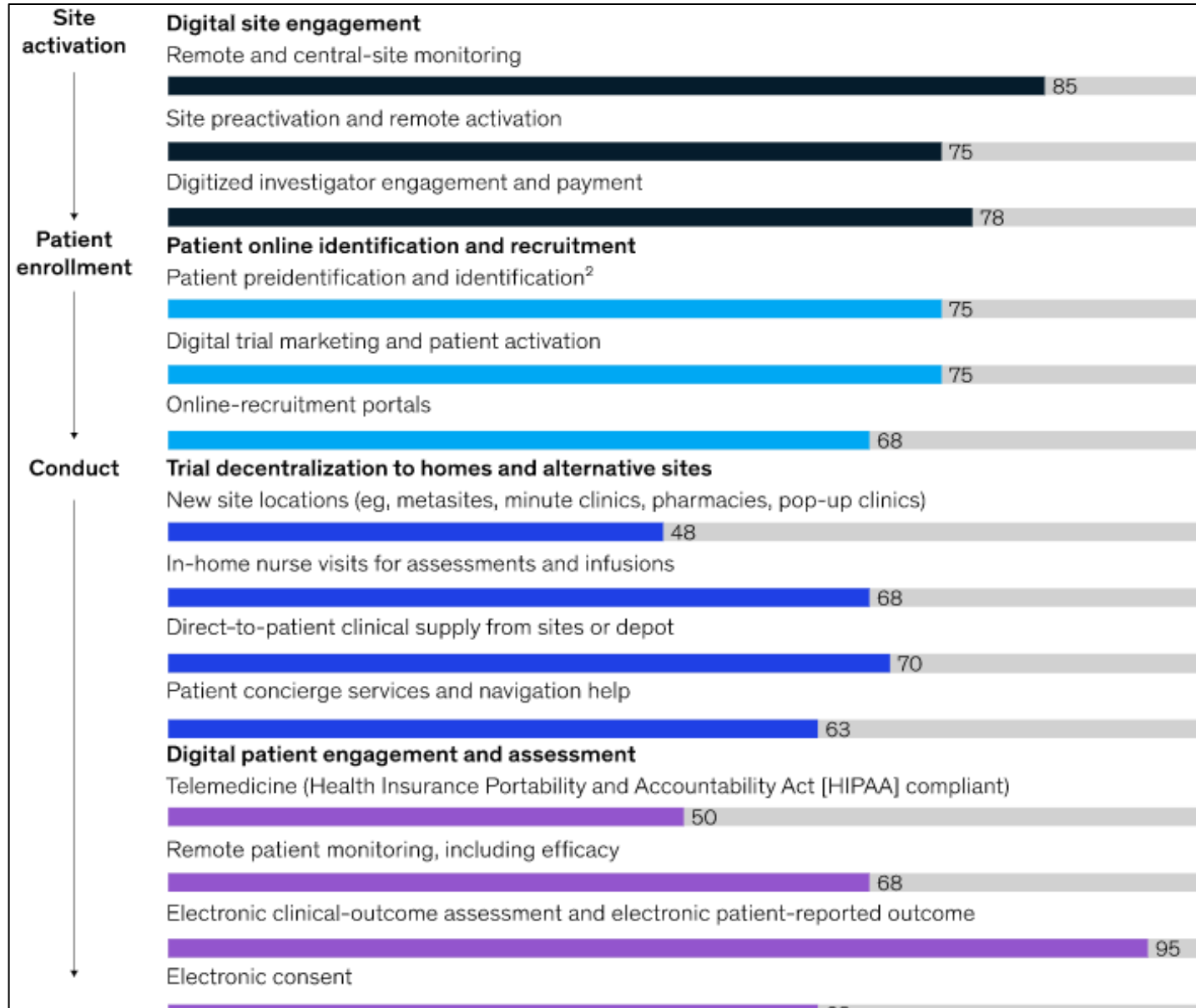
- **Real-time communication with patients**
  - Improves relationship between the patient and the researcher/clinician
  - Using ePRO, telemedicine, eReminders, made Patients life burden free (travel, getting appointments, Physicians availability etc.)
- **Improved reliability and accuracy of data:**
  - Collecting data using technology keeps data organized and safe
  - Tools are validated and used as standard
  - Digital end points can be primary end points
- **Easier reporting and analysis of results:**
  - Validated tools enable data collection and sharing to be standardized
  - Real time data would make Rapid identification and reporting of adverse events
  - Enabling a speedy medical intervention in case of need.



# Graphic Representation of Decentralized Clinical Trial



# Activities in Clinical Trial that can be handled Remotely



# Why **'No'** to DCT ??? What are the Cons.....

- **Complex digital technologies**
  - Limits the possibilities of enrolment and retention
- **Digital health data collection**
  - Critical issues in data collected as data are collected in a less protected environment
- **Personal data protection and cyber security**
  - Problems related to any accidental leaks of sensitive data or cyber attacks
- **Managing and processing higher volume of patient data**
  - Issues in collecting and processing data received from digital tools
- **Relationship between the patient and the doctor/ research team**
  - Cannot provide a full and systematic substitute for the doctor/ patient relationship and for direct clinical assessment
  - Can prove relatively ineffective in terms of patient involvement or incorrect use of Instruments
- **Continuity of patient care**
  - Inconsistency of visiting HCPs could potentially be distressing
- **Management of therapy**
  - Logistic problems (e.g., failure to deliver, or delay in doing so)
  - Not all medications can be delivered in direct-to-patient mode
  - Some of study procedures require doctor's intervention.

# Why **'No'** to DCT ??? What are the Cons.....

- **Time management**
  - Visiting multiple patients in one day
  - Travelling between locations efficiently and on time while maintaining the high standard of care they would deliver on-site
- **Data analysis:**
  - Complex procedure of standardization of results received from local clinical laboratories and diagnostic facilities
- **Technological failure**
  - Error Bugs would result in a loss of patient data, as there will be no expert on hand to provide immediate guidance or fixes
  - Disrupt or delay the trial progression by corrupting results
  - Technologies fail to provide adequate health services or recent updates as per regulatory requirements.
  - Inadequate telecommunications infrastructure. Clinicians/researchers become the help desk for resolving technical/ logistic difficulties (expected supplies not reaching the patient's home or being delivered late, technical problems with sensors or wearables, etc.)
- **Logistics:**
  - Non-availability of suitable, certified laboratories and healthcare services
  - Finding specially-trained couriers to deliver medication and other medical supplies and equipment safely and legally
- **Finding new technology vendors**
  - Difficult to find and approve vendors in a timely way to avoid delay in trials
- **Patient attitude**
  - Some patients may be more comfortable being seen in person, especially where they are unsure about administering tests or using technology.



# Possible Solutions to Overcome Challenges

- **Tool/Device validation**

- Tool/Device should be robust and validated to 100% accuracy
- Data accuracy checks should be Implemented at the time of collection of data.
- The programming of gate keeper checks would also be very helpful in maintaining the data accuracy and limiting the errors to happen during collection of useful data via various devices.

- **Tool/Device usability:**

- Need to create device/tool as simple as possible for the subjects to understand and use it and able to enter the data.
- Sponsors/CROs should train subjects/trial personnel
- Manuals should be created for subject's reference
- Should have support always ready and contingency plan in place for cases of device/tool malfunction.

- **Tool/Device Privacy:**

- Implement biometrics to operate tool/device by the subject so no one else can access the device/tool or data.
- Data should be collected and transferred to a centralized platform having capability to distinguish unblinded data is accessible by unblinded team only and not available for blinded team.
- There can be a threat detector implanted in device to alarm if it is being hacked

- **Tool/Device data format**

- Ensure even if data coming from multiple source to standardize the data at a centralized platform so data is useable for analysis and submission.
- Ensure the data collected is having same dimensions and device/tool have ability to convert the data into standard format.



# Possible Solutions to Overcome Challenges

- **External Data:**

- Ability to integrate/import external data received in any format (sas, excel, txt, etc.)
- Ability to convert multiple external vendor datasets into a standard dataset.
- Ability to join external datasets using unique identified such as Subject, Site, Visit, DEMOG data etc.

- **EDC integration with external tool:**

- Ability to convert multiple studies datasets into standard dataset using simple function or with minimal programming support to run standard DM manual listings on standard datasets.
- Ability to integrate EDC with external tool to track all study data (Clinical Data) as well as operational data (Study Metrics).
- Ability to integrate EDC with the external tool to facilitate raising query within the tool to reflect in EDC.

- **Data Review:**

- Notification or pop-up for real time data review as soon as date is entered
- Dataset /EDC integration to review and raise the queries within the tool to avoid opening EDC.
- Ability to give output category per Country, Site, Subject, Visit, Subject Status, Data Compliance, Data Completeness etc.
- Ability to combine 2 or more than 2 datasets using simple drag-drop function.
- Tool should have the pre-defined checks in place and should be deployed in less time for team to start their work.
- Tool support excel, word, graph and other analytics / data visualization.

- **Running Study Metrics:**

- Ability to perform query/CRF trend analysis within tool.
- Integration with EDC to help generate standard study metrics reports to have a consistent structure of reports.
- Ability to generate study reports on ad-hoc basis.
- Ability to integrate with EDC and import external data to populate CPT within the tool.

# Collaboration: Working Together For a Better Future

*“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”*

**Collaboration:** In common terms is the action of working with someone to produce or create something.

Healthcare Professionals from different platforms / roles, stakeholders from different industries cooperatively working together, sharing responsibility for problem-solving and making decisions to formulate and carry out plans for patient care

## **Importance of Collaboration:**

- helps to prevent medication errors
- Improve the patient experience
- Reduce time for Drug Development
- Deliver better patient outcomes
- Can reduce healthcare costs



# *Collaboration: Is Working Together helping Mitigate Challenges ?*

- **Sanofi and Insilico Medicine**
  - Sanofi using Insilico's 'Pharma.AI' platform to advance drug development process
- **Google Cloud and Epic**
  - Enabling customers to run their Epic workloads on Google Cloud
  - Gains in Efficiency, Innovation, and Security.
- **Google Cloud with Hackensack Meridian Health, LifePoint Health, and Mayo Clinic and Others**
  - Develop "accelerators", will help healthcare leaders and administrators find the data they need much more easily
  - Google technology is also providing clinicians with more precise image technology to help determine if patients are at higher risk for tumor
- **Oracle's acquisition with Cerner**
  - Oracle utilizing electronic health records and improves everything from claims processing to managing the supply chain
- **PPD collaborated with Medable and Science 37**
  - Direct-to-patient and direct-from-patient models
  - Incorporating home health care nursing,
  - Study drug administration,
  - Sample collection
  - Pickup and return of study materials
  - Digital solutions such as eConsent, telemedicine, devices/wearables, eCOA, ePRO

# Collaboration: Is Working Together helping Mitigate Challenges ?

- **Datavant with Medable**

- Datavant to integrate its tech into Medable's decentralized trials platform, which will see trial teams combine real-world health records, claims, diagnostic and other sources with their clinical trial data.

- **Covance + Medable:**

- Covance, Patient and Site Interface with Medable's modular software platform
- Provide access to applications encourage patients in study participation – eConsent, ePRO, eCOA
- Enable remote data collection
- Increase engagement between Patients, sites and Investigators

- **Covance acquires GlobalCare**

## Key Service Areas Supporting DCTs

### Central and Local Pharmacy Services

- ▶ Secure, temperature-controlled, limited-access storage
- ▶ Compounding, mixing and dispensing
- ▶ Shipping to sites/patients following cold chain logistics
- ▶ Sourcing of commercial products and devices (infusion pumps)
- ▶ Pharmacy supplies

### Site Support Services

- ▶ "Just-in-time" support on site
- ▶ Chart review for potential patients
- ▶ Scheduling patients for screening visits
- ▶ Assistance with on-site tests and assessment
- ▶ Data entry

### Mobile Healthcare Services

- ▶ Study drug administration (infusion, injection, topical)
- ▶ Blood draws (safety labs, pharmacokinetics, genomics)
- ▶ Other biologic sampling (nasopharyngeal and oral mucosal swabs, urine)
- ▶ Clinical assessments (vital signs, body weight, ECGs, concomitant medications, signs/symptoms)
- ▶ Patient training and education (e.g., self-administration, devices)
- ▶ Study compliance checks (patient diary, drug storage)
- ▶ Patient questionnaires
- ▶ Patient chaperoning services to sites
- ▶ Call center services

# ***Collaboration: Is Working Together helping Mitigate Challenges ?***

- **Signant Health acquisition of VirTrial**
  - VirTrial's tele-research platform, which includes secure video, audio, chat, and connected medical device capabilities for decentralized patient-site interaction and assessments
  - Signant with a solution to address remote site startup and monitoring
  - Remotely conduct site evaluation, initiation, and monitoring visits
- **ERT and Bioclinica become Clario**
  - Trial Anywhere™ offers sites and sponsors more clinical trial options, empowers patient choice, and provides the means to create diversity within clinical trials improving health equity
- **Syneos Health and Illingworth Research Group**
  - Illingworth Research Group, a leading provider of clinical research home health services
- **ICON and PRA**
  - World's most advanced healthcare intelligence and clinical research organization
- **Collaboration for fighting against cyberattacks**
  - Hospitals have suffered hundreds of cyberattacks in 2022. Two out of three healthcare IT professionals (67%) said their organizations had a significant cybersecurity incident in the past 12 months. As per Cybersecurity analysts' healthcare industry lags in terms of strengthening their defenses.
  - Clearwater and CynergisTek, who are cybersecurity firm join with healthcare industry and other highly regulated industries

*Collaboration Is Redefining The Future Of Healthcare...  
especially for  
Decentralized Clinical Trials*

THANK YOU

