

ICON collaborates with Carnegie Mellon University

28 March 2015 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

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ICON has announced that it is sponsoring a series of research projects to find new ways to improve information comprehension and retention by clinical trial participants. The projects are led by Professor Baruch Fischhoff, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).

The research tools will include multimedia solutions from ICON's Firecrest suite of products.

"We are looking into ways to help patients make well-informed decisions about whether to participate in clinical trials," said Professor Fischhoff. He added, "Our research will take advantage of advances in behavioural decision research and information technology to design and evaluate approaches for ensuring that patients understand the potential risks and benefits of joining trials."

"Successful patient enrolment in clinical trials is dependent on an informed consent process that thoroughly and consistently explains the trial and instils trust in the patient," commented Mr Frances Abeton, VP firecrest, at ICON plc. He added, "The CMU research projects are designed to scientifically test, measure and validate what patients need in order to ensure truly informed consent. We also want to know how the presentation of clinical trial information affects patient understanding, confidence and trust."

Following scientific peer review, the results of these studies will be accessible to the public and will influence the development of new ICON innovations, including a range of study management tools from Firecrest. Firecrest tools include investigator training, patient recruitment and retention services, eConsent, mobile data capture and an integrated patient and investigator portal, which greatly improve the compliance, consistency and quality of study-related activities by study personnel.