

Study Teams

As a **Research Advocate (RA)** on a study team, you will play a crucial role in bridging the gap between researchers and the broader community. You don't need to be a scientist—in fact, that's exactly why we need you. Your perspective helps ensure that research remains patient-centered, accessible, and ethical.

\ Duration

- The time commitment varies depending on the needs of the research and when the RA is brought into the process.

\ Common Frustrations

- The process takes too long
- Feeling unheard
- Poor communication
- Feel like a “box checked” and not valued

\ Who You Are

- **Confident & Articulate:** You have the confidence to speak up and advocate for clarity, even in a room full of experts.
- **Adaptable & Open-Minded:** You are comfortable with scientific uncertainty and evolving processes.
- **Critical Thinker & Communicator:** You can both think critically and communicate effectively, whether in writing or in meetings.
- **Meticulous & Persistent:** You are detail-oriented, patient, and tenacious—qualities essential for engaging in long-term research projects.
- **Independent & Collaborative:** You thrive in both introspective, independent work (reading and preparing comments) and interactive group settings (discussing and defending your perspectives).

\ This Role

- This role is less defined than some traditional Research Advocate roles, offering a unique opportunity to engage directly with researchers who take strong ownership of their work.
- You will be working alongside a sponsoring organization, research scientists, staff members, and sometimes other advocates to ensure that studies are well-designed, transparent, and patient-friendly.
- If you are passionate about research, willing to embrace complexity, and eager to contribute to meaningful scientific discussions, you may be well-suited for serving on a study team.

\ What You'll Do

- **Engage in Scientific Review:** Read and analyze complex scientific materials, including concepts and protocols, with a focus on comprehension and clarity.
- **Provide Insightful Feedback:** Submit written comments on research protocols and patient education materials, offering a lay perspective that enhances clarity and relevance.
- **Contribute to Discussions:** Participate in meetings with researchers, statisticians, pharmacists, nurses, and other experts to discuss your feedback. You'll need to be comfortable defending your perspectives while also respecting the expertise of others.
- **Navigate Uncertainty:** Be prepared to work in a space where not all answers are readily available. You'll need the humility to ask questions, the patience to endure a lengthy process, and the willingness to follow up for clarity.
- **Balance Independence & Collaboration:** While this role requires independent reading, thinking, and preparation, you will also be part of a dynamic team where discussion, disagreement, and refinement of ideas are encouraged.
- **Understand & Communicate Research Concepts:** You don't need to be a statistician, but you should be comfortable with—or willing to learn—basic statistical and clinical research terminology.