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Attending the MCCR workshop was a great experience which I recommend to every fellow who is interested in designing clinical trials in oncology. It was a great honour for me getting the chance to participate and develop my own protocol during the course.

The one-week course programme included lectures given by experienced faculty members covering virtually all aspects of clinical trial development. Furthermore, during the 'small group discussion' sessions certain aspects of protocol design, different types of clinical studies and translational research were discussed in more detail.
One fundamental part of the workshop was the 'protocol development group', where the individual protocol proposals were discussed and shaped in small groups of eight fellows and four faculty members (including one statistician). This setting allowed to critically review the protocol, to identify critical aspects and to find opportunities for improvement. During the 'meet your expert sessions', it was possible to ask other faculty members' advice e.g. on special questions concerning the own protocol.

As a fellow in paediatric oncology, I did in particular benefit from the discussions with and teaching by Dr Birgit Geoerger, a very experienced ITCC paediatric oncologist. However, also the exchange with medical oncologist and getting to know their perspectives was very interesting.

I was especially impressed by the motivating atmosphere during the whole workshop – everyone (fellows and faculty) was eager to improve and work hard on the protocols and was also pleased to provide you with support and advice.

Last but not least, I would like to emphasize the great organisation – everything was taken care of before and during the whole workshop and there was help for every problem. The location, the IT-facilities and support as well as the staff support left no desires.

All in all, the workshop was an excellent and unique as well as very challenging opportunity to learn more about clinical trial design in oncology. The experience and knowledge I gained during the course will not only help me substantially to implement the trial I worked on in Zeist, but will also be valuable for my future work in the field of oncology.