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What Am I Missing Here?

Thought-Provoking Questions for the Clinical Research Industry

By Norman M. Goldfarb

168. That other guy did it

From time to time, the FDA debars or disqualifies an investigator for bad behavior…and the study coordinator skates free. In some cases, the study coordinator may not know better or might feel compelled by circumstances to follow the investigator's orders. However, in other cases, the study coordinator is fully complicit in the misconduct or is the only miscreant. Nevertheless, he or she is left free to move on to another clinical research position. How can that be fair or good public policy? Absent extenuating circumstances (like whistle-blowing), it should not matter who you are; if you do the crime, you should do the time. What am I missing here?

Do you know a better way? Is something getting under your skin? Please send your ideas for future columns to ngoldfarb@firstclinical.com.

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