



Overcoming cancer together

SKILLED CLINICAL TRIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

A pathway for science graduates into the clinical trials sector



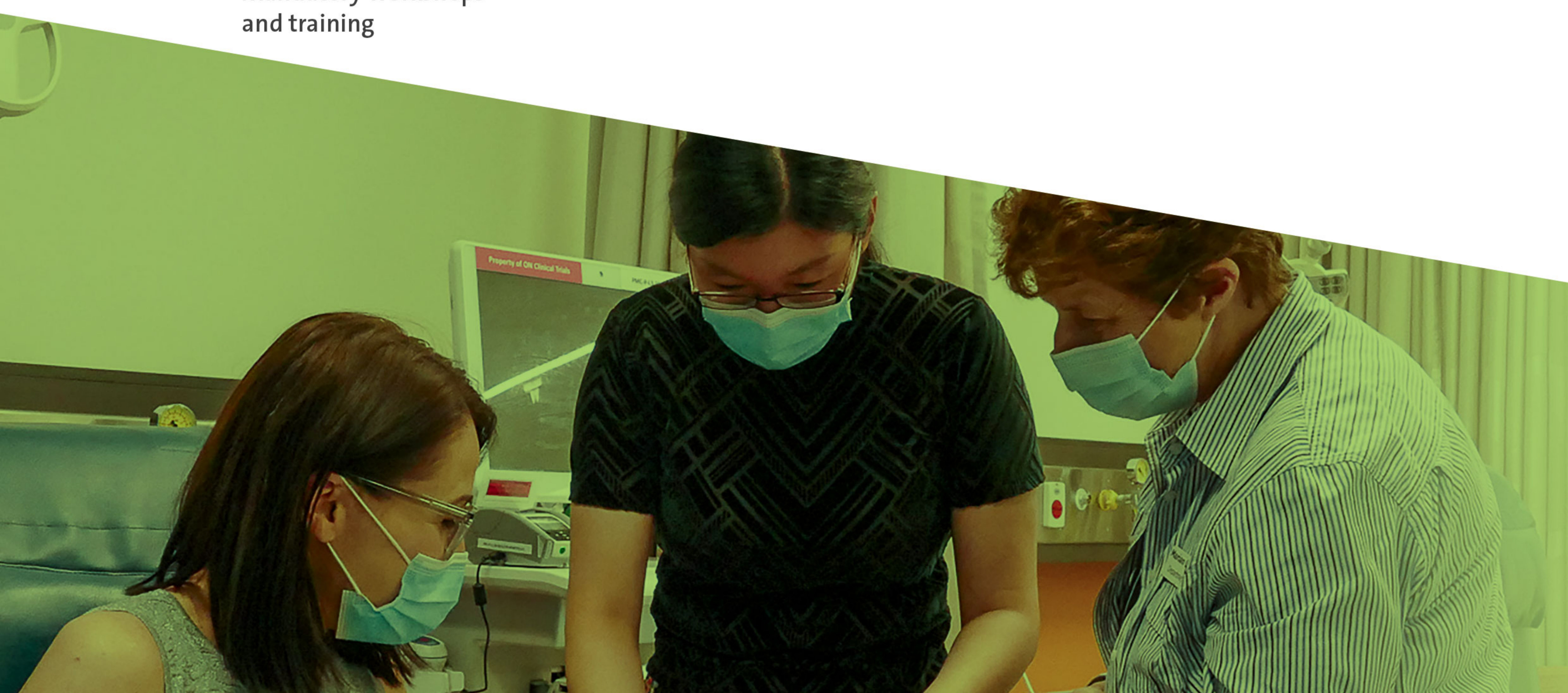
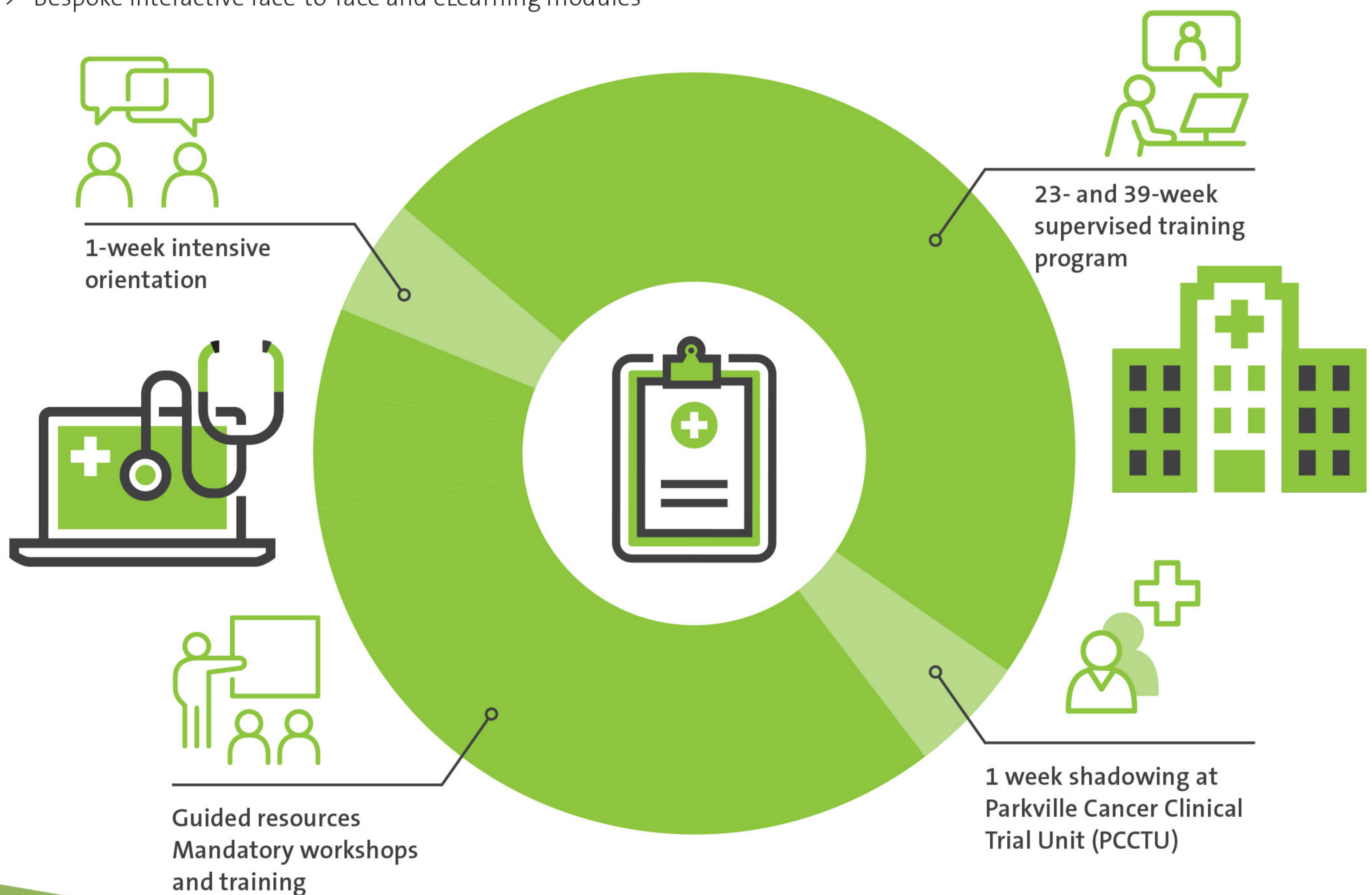
A first for Australian clinical trials

Clinical trials form a critical bridge between research and practice, progressing treatments and care standards into better outcomes for patients. Victoria's clinical trials activity is expanding, and a specialised workforce capable of meeting demand is crucial.

The SKILLED Internship Program is the first of its kind in Australia, providing a pathway for science graduates into the highly competitive clinical trials field. The highly sought-after program has been specifically designed to build role-specific clinical trial knowledge, experience and skills, and increase employability within the sector.

A holistic approach to clinical trials education

- > Intensive, accelerated training program developed and delivered in collaboration with Parkville Cancer Clinical Trial Unit
- > 24 and 40-week structured competency-based training program with on-site experience in clinical trial units or a Research Governance Office
- > Places Clinical Trial Administrative Officer and Study Coordinator interns from both Victoria and interstate
- > Bespoke interactive face-to-face and eLearning modules



Structured for success

Clinical Trial Administrative Officer – BSC (Hons) or higher

Study Coordinator – Masters graduate, PhD under submission or graduate

On-site supervised training

Develop practical skills

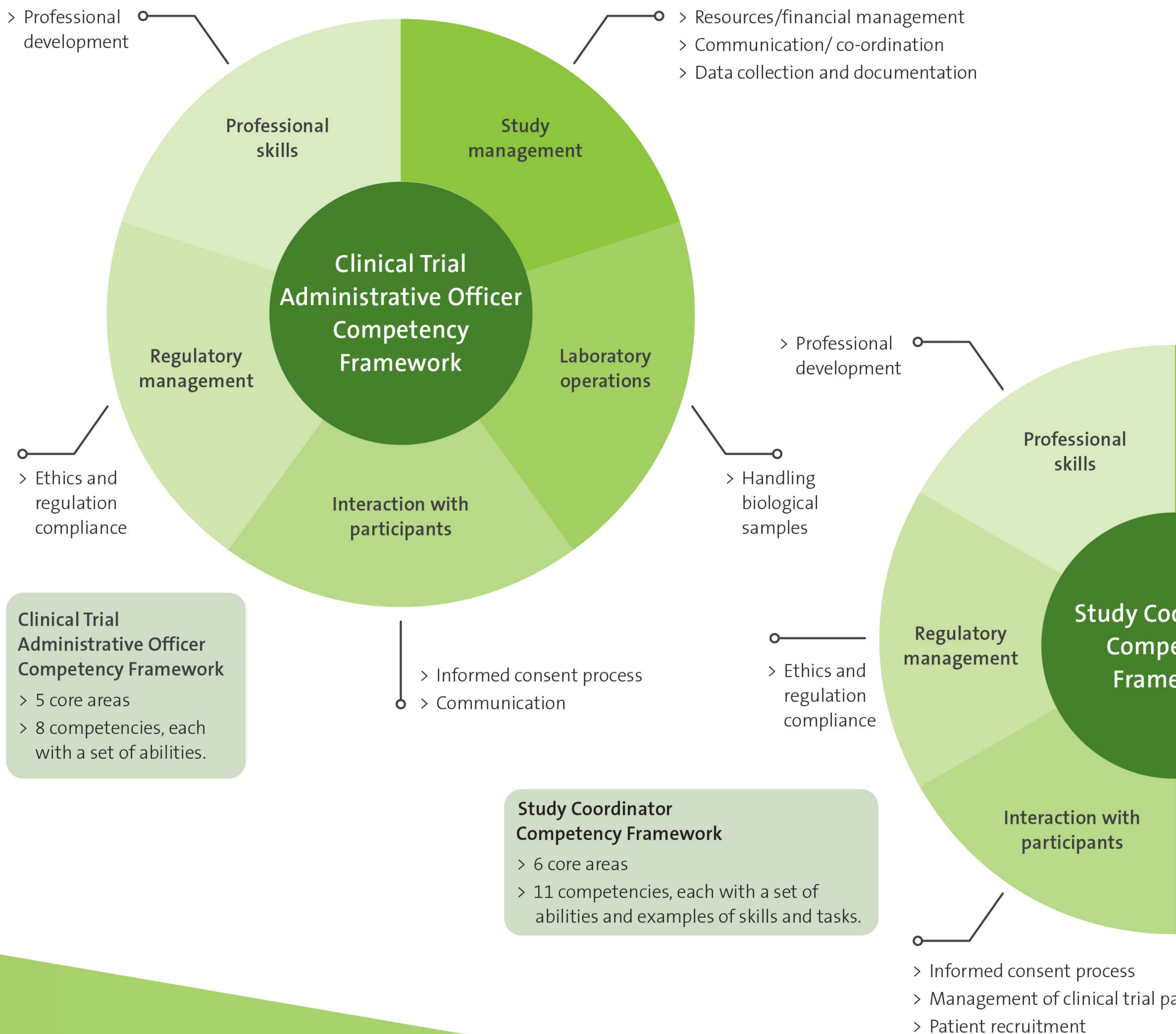
- > Supervised to develop role-specific skillset
- > Competence assessed

Site improvement project

- > Using their research skills, interns identify and implement a quality or efficiency improvement at their site

- > Professional development

- > Resources/financial management
- > Communication/ co-ordination
- > Data collection and documentation



Clinical Trial Administrative Officer Competency Framework

- > 5 core areas
- > 8 competencies, each with a set of abilities.

Study Coordinator Competency Framework

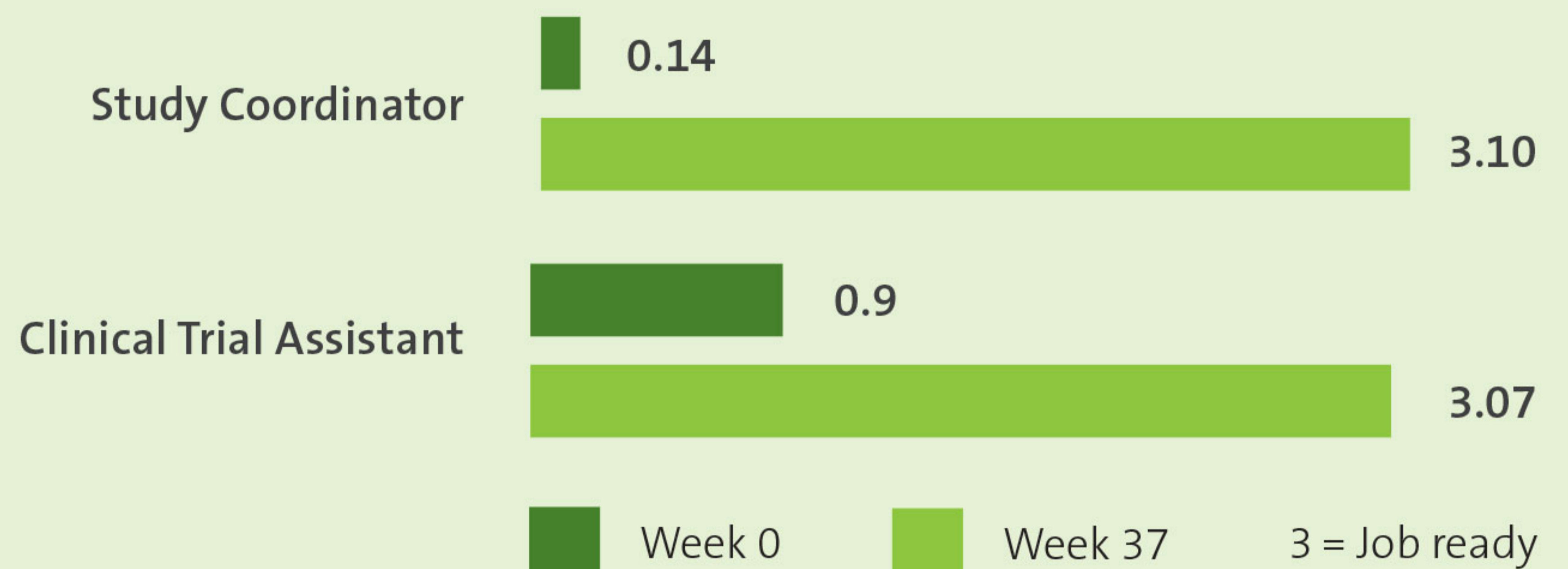
- > 6 core areas
- > 11 competencies, each with a set of abilities and examples of skills and tasks.

Strengthening the entire sector

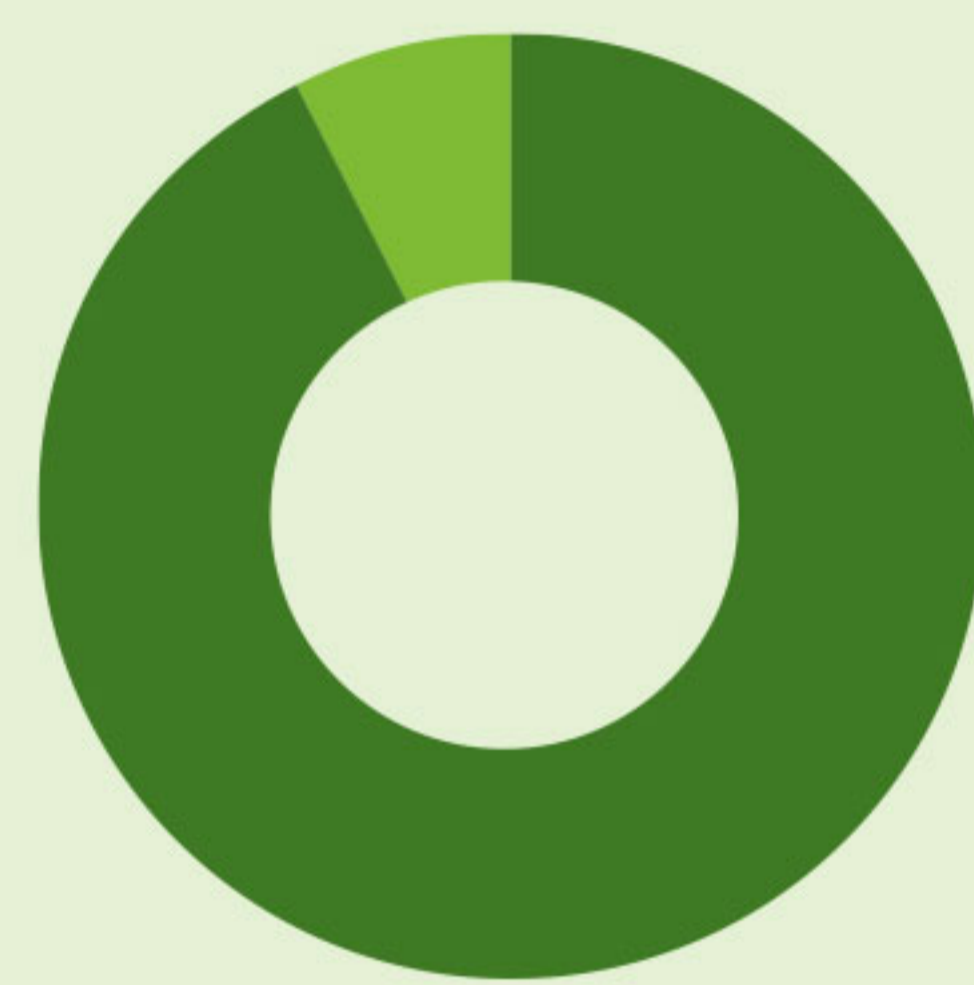
120 interns
expected to have
completed SKILLED
internship by the
end of 2024

2022 at a glance

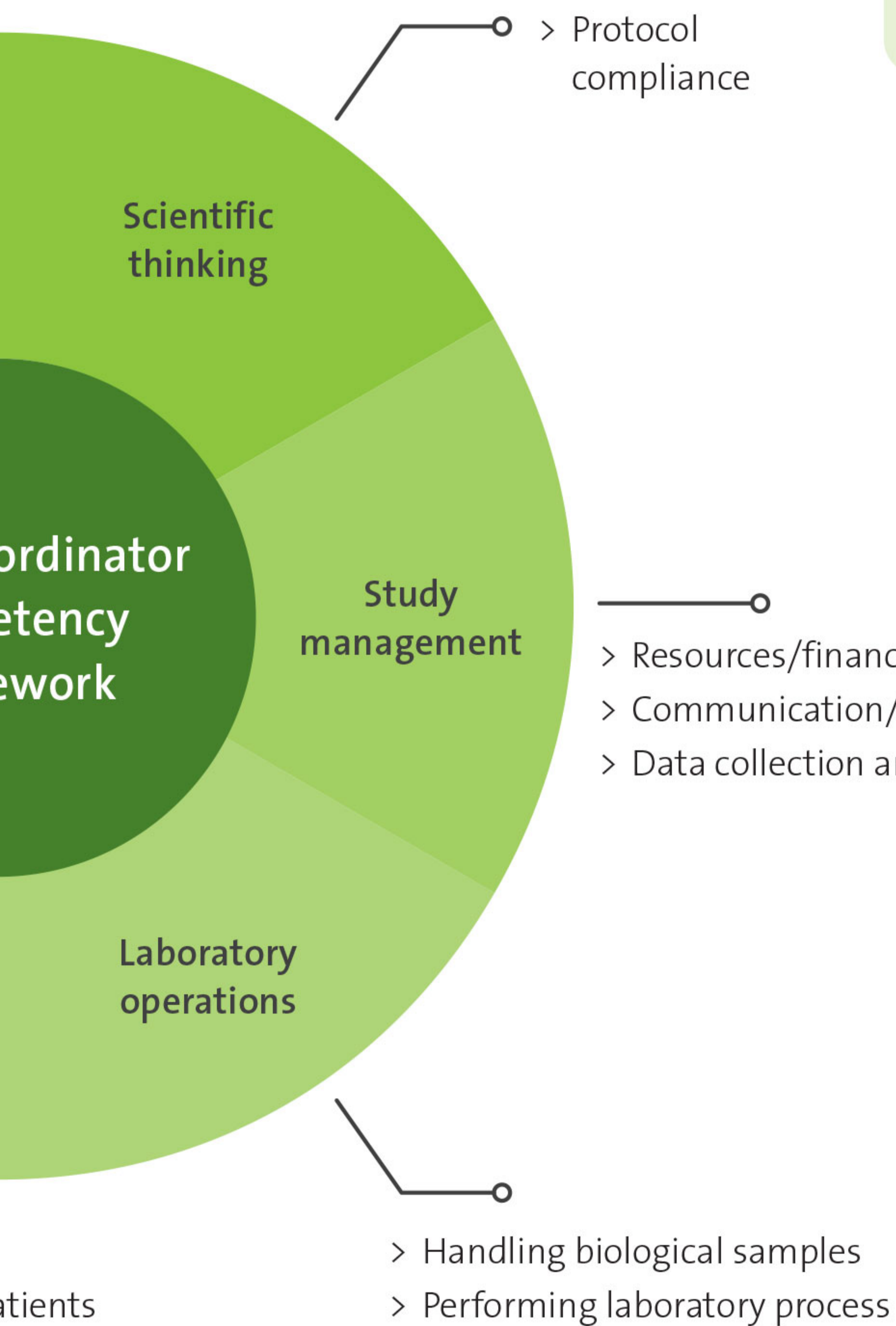
Average Competency Progression (2022)



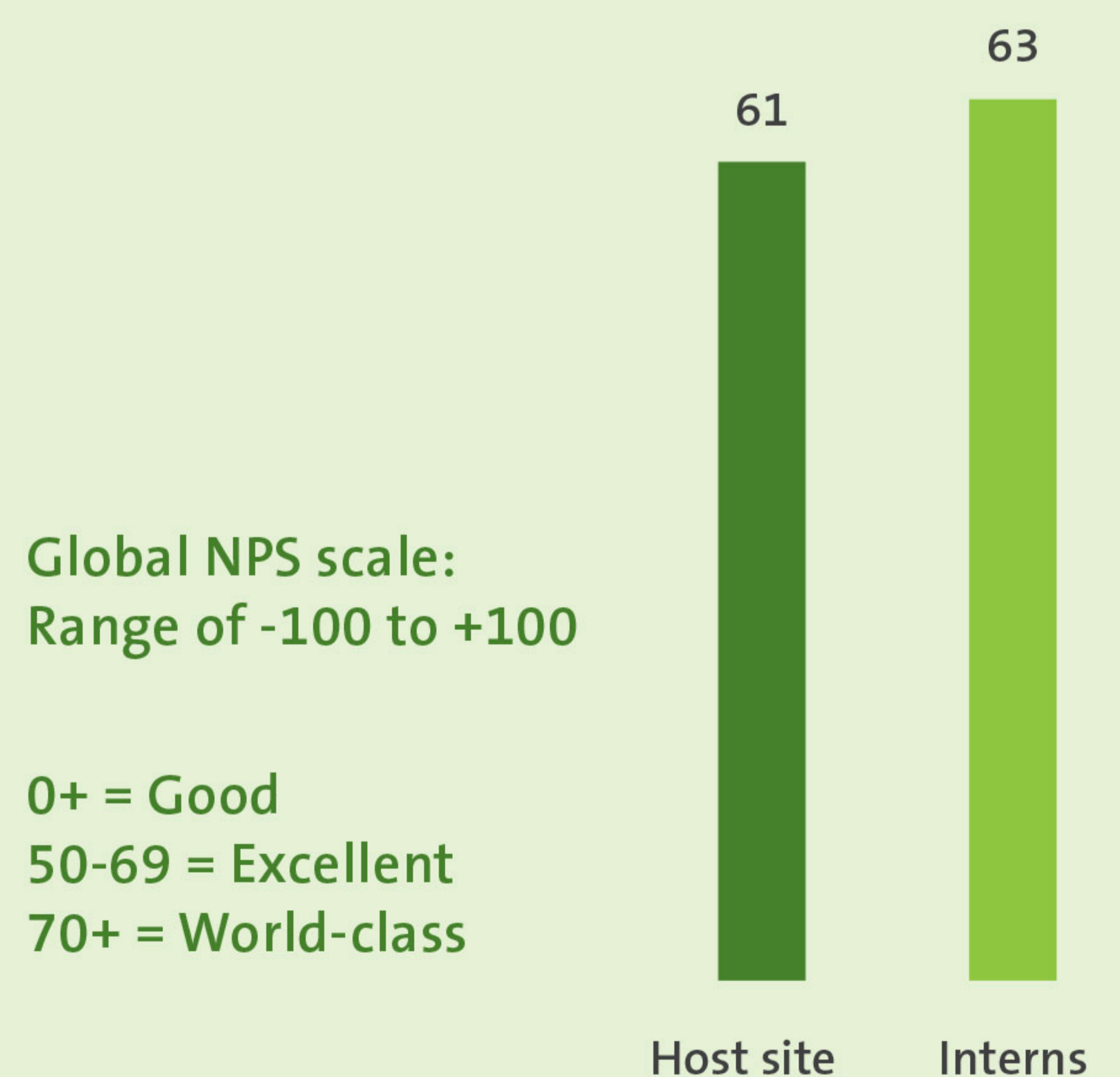
87%
interns employed into
the sector (2019-2023)



89%
of interns retained in the SKILLED
program during 2019-2023



2021-2023 Net Promoter Scores



A genuine commitment to regional equity



40%
completed
placement in
regional Victoria
from 2019-2023



67%
gained employment
at regional site
upon completion

8
Regional clinical trial
units participated in
the internship
(2019-2023)

7 regional units
9 interns



2022

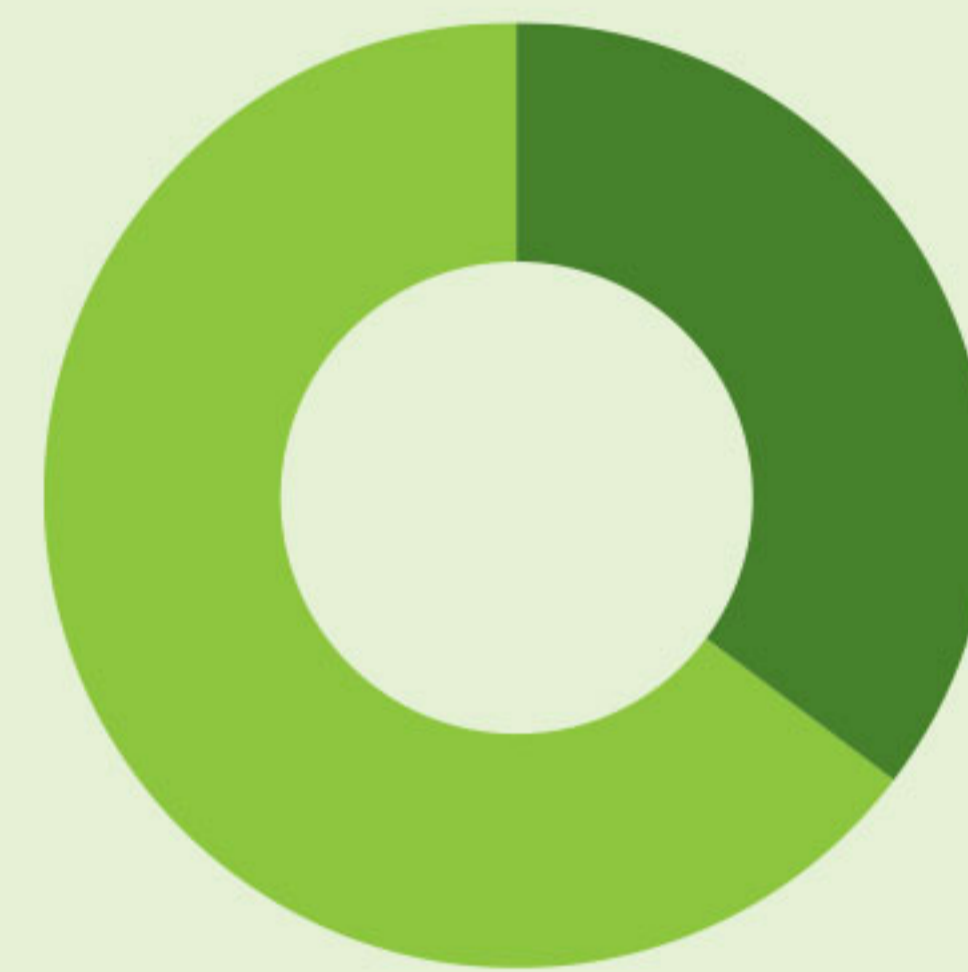
Barwon Health
Bendigo Health
Goulburn Valley Health
Grampians Health

Latrobe Regional Hospital
North-East Health Wangaratta
South-West Healthcare

2023

Barwon Health
Bendigo Health
Goulburn Valley Health

Grampians Health
Latrobe Regional Hospital
North-East Health Wangaratta



6 regional units
11 interns

Pioneering Teletrials for Regional Cancer Patients - A Journey of Progress

Jacqueline Lake's story is one of innovation and progress in regional clinical trials, catalysed by her participation in the SKILLED internship program. A Deakin University graduate in Bachelor of Health and Medical Science (Honours), she embarked on her internship journey at Northeast Health Wangaratta (NEHW), the first intern hosted by the site.

At NEHW, she took the initiative to address the lack of a cancer-specific clinical trials unit by focusing her quality improvement project on developing a teletrial process for the hospital. This groundbreaking project aimed to enable regional cancer patients to participate in clinical trials closer to home, providing greater access to trials in larger centres via telehealth.

The next phase of development involved establishing cancer clinical trials based at NEHW, with opportunities for collaboration with Border Medical Oncology. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, she secured a position as a Clinical Trial Assistant at NEHW for 2022, demonstrating her dedication to improving healthcare standards in regional communities.

Reflecting on her journey, Jacqueline remarked, "The SKILLED internship presented an opportunity for me to see whether my love for research and my yearning for patient care could be met in a way that I had not considered. Once I began my internship, I very quickly realised that what I wanted from a career and my life could be found in clinical trials."

Nicole Humphreys, Jacqueline's supervisor, expressed her gratitude for the SKILLED program, saying, "The impacts to our unit since becoming involved in the program in 2020 have been significant and have formed a critical component of our operational planning. SKILLED has definitely contributed to our growth both in quantity of trials and the acceleration time of our progress to date."

The VCCC Alliance is Australia's first and most ambitious comprehensive cancer centre: a joint venture of 10 member institutions, integrating cancer research, education and clinical care with the support of the Victorian Government.

The SKILLED Clinical Trials Internships program is funded through the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund.

Program Partners



University Partners



Sponsor



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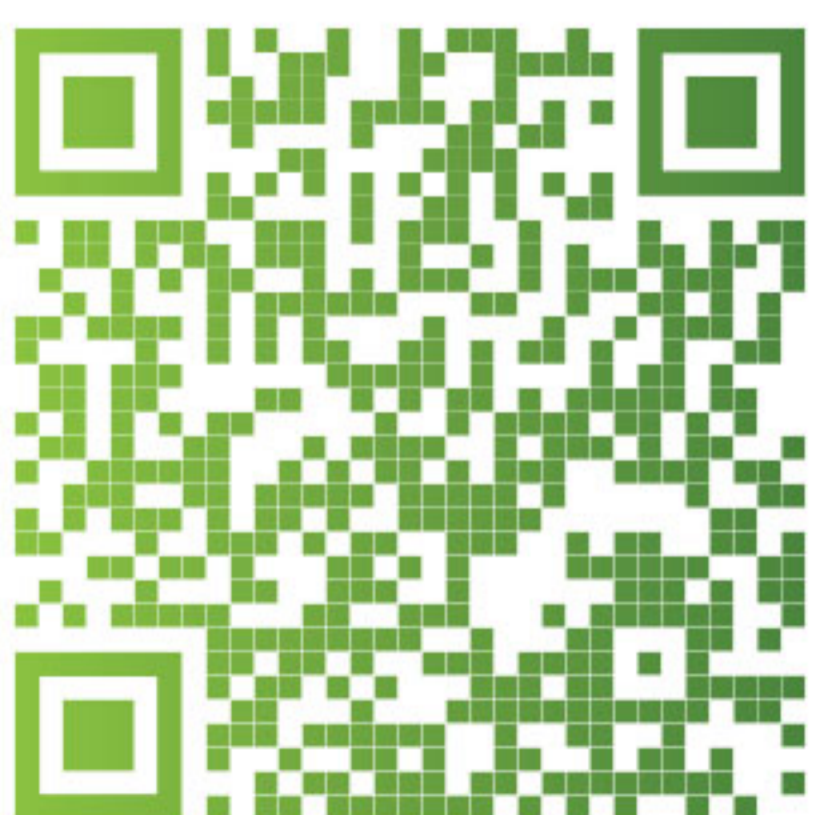
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