

Rewarding Site-Based Research: A Step Towards Improving the Ecosystem of Heart Failure Clinical Trials

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Introduction

The ecosystem of heart failure (HF) clinical research faces numerous challenges, such as significant time commitment and financial costs, complex trial design and regulatory processes, low return on investment, and poor incentives for investigators and research teams to participate. In 2017, a multidisciplinary group of academic investigators, industry representatives, professional society leaders, patients, and government representatives convened to form the Heart Failure Collaboratory (HFC), a public-private partnership with the FDA aimed at improving the efficiency of HF clinical trials. In this context, the HFC has worked on strategies to incentivize research teams and provide meaningful recognition of meritorious work to cultivate and retain more engaged investigators and research teams. Since 2019, the HFC has partnered with the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) in a national awards program which highlights and promotes the outstanding work of principal investigators (PIs) and site coordinators (SCs) in the conduct of HF clinical trials. We aimed to measure the impact of these awards to date.

Methods

The HFC working group developed a four-question survey to gauge past awardees' views of the awards, the impact of winning an award on their career, and how future awardees might best be recognized. The survey was sent to all past award recipients.

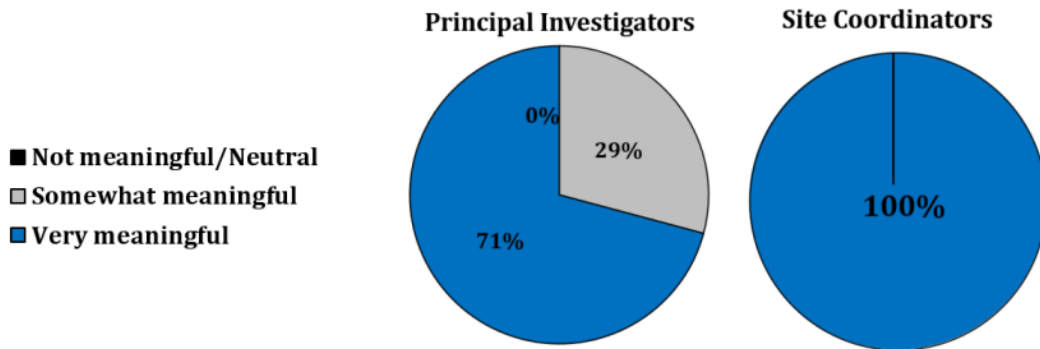
Results

The survey was delivered successfully to 56 of 57 site PI awardees and 35 of 53 SC (66%) awardees. Ten SCs and 24 PIs completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 37% (43% among PIs and 29% among SCs). All respondents acknowledged that recognition with a Site-Based Research Award was at least “somewhat meaningful,” with 27 awardees (79%) classifying the awards as “very meaningful.” Most respondents (88%, n=30) have their Research Award listed on their curriculum vitae. Five SCs (50%) referenced their award in performance reviews or career advancement discussions. Eight SCs (80%) and 9 PIs (38%) received some form of additional recognition from their home institution related to this award. Over one-third (35%, n=12) of respondents posted news of their award on social media. When asked about preferences for recognition type, feedback varied by individual responder with no clear consensus.

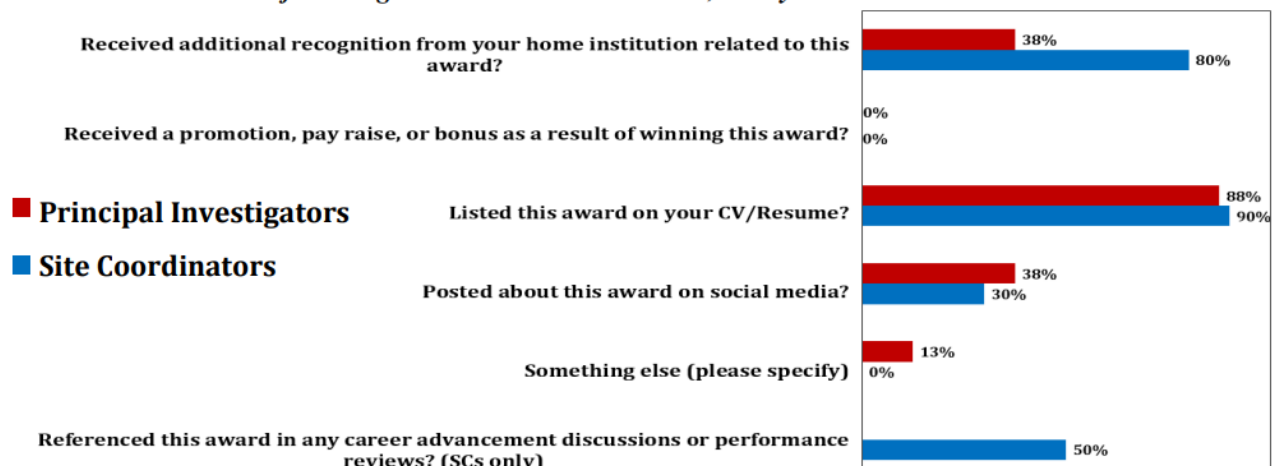
Conclusion

Public recognition by organizations like the HFC and HFSA is likely important and meaningful to members of research teams, including both PIs and SCs. Finding creative ways to encourage, recognize, and reward significant contributions to the research community may be one mechanism to increase engagement among research teams and improve clinical trial efficiency.

QUESTION: "How meaningful to you is winning an HFC-HFSA Site-Based Research Award?"



QUESTION: "As a result of winning a site-based research award, have you:"



QUESTION: "Please express your preferred form of recognition as a top PI/SC by ranking the following options from 1-6/8"

