

Alumni Speak Report

Name of the Event: Alumni Speak

Topic of the Event: Career Opportunities for MSc Clinical Research Students as a Clinical Research Coordinator in India

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 09:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Speaker: Ms. Ruchika Thapliyal, Clinical Research Coordinator, Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Medical and Health Sciences, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Organized by: Department of Clinical Research, HIMS, SRHU

Audience: MSc Clinical Research Students

Introduction:

On March 12, 2026, the Department of Clinical Research at HIMS organized an Alumni Speak session on “Career Opportunities for MSc Clinical Research Students as a Clinical Research Coordinator in India.”

The session was delivered by Ms. Ruchika Thapliyal, an alumna of the MSc Clinical Research Batch 2023–2025, who is currently working as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Medical and Health Sciences, Dehradun. The objective of the session was to provide students with an understanding of the career prospects available in the field of clinical research, particularly in the role of a Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC), and to highlight the opportunities available in hospitals, research institutes, and clinical trial organizations across India.

Key Highlights of the Session:

Ms. Ruchika began the session by sharing her academic journey and professional experience in the field of clinical research with the students of the MSc Clinical Research Batch 2025–2027. She explained the importance of the Clinical Research Coordinator in the successful conduct of clinical trials and research studies. According to her, the CRC plays a vital role in coordinating activities between investigators, sponsors, ethics committees, and study participants, ensuring that clinical research is conducted smoothly and in compliance with regulatory guidelines.

Role and Responsibilities of a Clinical Research Coordinator:

- Coordinating clinical trials and research studies at the study site
- Screening and recruiting eligible participants for research studies
- Ensuring informed consent is obtained from participants before enrolment
- Maintaining accurate documentation such as case report forms and study records
- Ensuring compliance with ICH-GCP guidelines and study protocols
- Coordinating communication between investigators, sponsors, and ethics committees
- Monitoring participant visits and maintaining study timelines

Career Opportunities for MSc Clinical Research Graduates:

Ms. Ruchika highlighted several career pathways available for MSc Clinical Research students in India. These include positions such as Clinical Research Coordinator, Clinical Trial Assistant (CTA), Clinical

Research Associate (CRA), Research Assistant, Data Manager, and Project Coordinator. She explained that these opportunities are available in hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations (CROs), academic institutions, and government research projects.

Skills Required for Success:

She discussed the essential skills required for building a successful career in clinical research, including a strong understanding of clinical trial processes, knowledge of ICH-GCP guidelines, effective documentation and data management skills, good communication abilities, and familiarity with medical terminology. She also stressed the importance of internships, training, and practical exposure during the MSc program to gain hands-on experience in research settings.

Interactive Session and Q&A:

The session concluded with an interactive discussion where students asked questions related to career growth, job opportunities, salary expectations, and the challenges faced while coordinating clinical trials. Ms. Ruchika provided practical guidance on preparing for CRC roles, applying for research positions, and developing professional skills required in the industry.

Conclusion:

The Alumni Speak session provided valuable insights into career opportunities for MSc Clinical Research students in India, particularly in the role of a Clinical Research Coordinator. Ms. Ruchika Thapliyal's experience and guidance helped students understand the responsibilities, skills, and career prospects in the field of clinical research. The session was informative and motivating for students who aspire to pursue careers in clinical trials and research coordination.



Ms. Ruchika sharing her experiencing with MSc clinical research students