NATIONAL OFFICE FOR RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

National Research Ethics Committee

NREC-MD Meeting Minutes

20 June 2024

Attendance

Name	Role
Prof. Barry O'Sullivan	Chair, NREC-MD
Prof. Declan Patton	Deputy Chair, NREC-MD
Dr Caitriona Cahir	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Daniel Coakley	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Mireille Crampe	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Ruth Davis	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Frank Houghton	Member, NREC-MD
Ms Orla Lane	Member, NREC-MD
Prof. Cara Martin	Member, NREC-MD
Mr Billy McCann	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Sarah McLoughlin	Member, NREC-MD
Prof. Tom Melvin	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Declan O'Callaghan	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Clare O'Connor	Member, NREC-MD
Prof. Jim O'Neill	Member, NREC-MD
Prof. Mahendra Varma	Member, NREC-MD

Ms Simone Walshe	Member, NREC-MD
Dr Joanne O'Dwyer	Observer
Dr Lucia Prihodova	Programme Manager, National Office for Research Ethics Committees
Dr Louise Houston *	Project Officer, National Office for Research Ethics Committees
Dr Laura Mackey	Programme Officer, National Office for Research Ethics Committees

*Drafted minutes.

Apologies: Prof. Mary Sharp, Dr Owen Doody, Dr James Gilroy, Dr Gloria Kirwan, Prof. Therese Murphy, Dr Paul O'Connor, Mr Damian Owens, Mr Peter Wolfe

Quorum for decisions: Yes

Agenda

1. Welcome (Chairperson) and apologies:
2. Report on Committee business
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Declarations of interest
5. 24-NREC-MD-011
6. 21-NREC-MD-007-SM3
7. 24-NREC-MD-015
8. 24-NREC-MD-016
9. 23-NREC-MD-022-SM2
10. 22-NREC-MD-023-SM2
11. 23-NREC-MD-002-SM3
12. 23-NREC-MD-024-SM2
13. AOB

- Prof. Barry O'Sullivan welcomed the Committee and acknowledged apologies sent and opened the meeting.
- NREC Committee Business Report: The Committee noted the report.
- Minutes of the previous meeting (16 May 2024) were approved.
- Matters arising from the previous meeting: none
- Declarations of interest: none

Applications

24-NREC-MD-011

- Principal Investigator: Dr Noel Horgan
- Study title: A Phase 3 randomized, masked, controlled trial to evaluate efficacy and safety of belzupacap sarotalocan (AU-011) treatment compared to sham control in subjects with primary indeterminate lesions or small choroidal melanoma.
- Lead institution: Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, 61 Adelaide Road, Dublin, D02 XK51.
- NREC-MD Decision
  - *Favourable with conditions*
- Associated Conditions:
- The Device Specific Participant Information Sheet & Informed Consent Form is updated for clarify in specific points highlighted by the Committee.

21-NREC-MD-007-SM3

- Principal Investigator: Prof Faisal Sharif
- Study title: A Prospective, Multi-Center, Open-Label, Single-Arm Clinical Trial Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of the Cordella™ Pulmonary Artery Sensor System in New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class III Heart Failure Patients (SIRONA 2 Trial)
- Lead institution: University Hospital Galway
- Sponsor: Endotronix Ireland Limited
- NREC-MD Decision
  - *Favourable*

24-NREC-MD-015

- Principal Investigator: Prof. Fergal Malone
- Study title: Use of the Fetal Antigen Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) Clinical Trial Assay to determine fetal red blood cell antigen status in the Janssen-sponsored Phase 3 IMP clinical trial.
- Lead institution: Rotunda hospital, Dublin
- Sponsor: BillionToOne, Inc.
- NREC-MD Decision

- *Unfavourable*

- NREC-MD Comments:
- Lack of clarity about the consent process for the performance study specifically.
- Lack of clarity on what happens with the samples of participants who do not enter the main clinical trial.
- Lack of assurance in the response from sponsor about allowing the prospective participant appropriate (minimum 24 hours) to consider their participation.
- The lack of transparency regarding the performance study procedures and related data and sample storage in the existing participant facing documentation.
- The lack of explicit unbundled consent for transfer, long term storage and processing of data and samples.
- Lack of transparency regarding child's DNA analysis on maternal blood. The format on how this information is presented in current PIL/ICF is not accessible.
- The proposed deidentification of samples is inappropriate as genetic information cannot be truly anonymised. Future uses of blood samples need explicit consent as blanket consent (for unspecified research) is not lawful.
- The proposed mechanism for withdrawal of data/samples does not appear to be truly justified and aligned with the participants rights for withdrawal. If to be carried out as proposed, explicit consent to facilitate deidentification from the study participant must be obtained and as noted in the above point, it is not evident that blood samples, which contain genetic material, can be truly anonymised.
- Lack of clarity on the role of Billion to One in the participant facing documentation. The Committee noted that the sponsor will be listed in the maternal PIL/ICF at the next substantial modification, their role in processing of the performance study samples and data should be explicitly stated in all participant facing documentation pertaining to the performance study.
- Lack of assurance in relation to financial arrangements for the clinical performance study.
- Finally, the NREC-MD noted that the issues with the current maternal PIL/ICF could be addressed by the use of a separate PIL/ICF for the performance study as requested. This would further facilitate streamlined approach to any substantial modifications of the clinical trial and performance study.

24-NREC-MD-016

- Principal Investigator: Prof Ray McDermott
- Study title: An interventional, prospective clinical study protocol for testing RNA extracted from FFPE tumor tissue specimens taken from patients with Intermediate risk Non-Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer (IR-NMIBC) for FGFR alterations, using the QIAGEN therascreen® FGFR RGQ RT- PCR Kit, to determine molecular eligibility (FGFR gene alterations detected) for enrolment onto Janssen's Phase 3 clinical trial of the FGFR inhibitor, erdafitinib (MoonRISe-1 number 42756493BLC3004).

- Lead institution: St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin
- Sponsor: Qiagen Manchester Ltd.
- NREC-MD Decision
  - *Request for Further Information*
- Further Information Requested:
- The Committee requests clarification on the process of reporting incidental findings from analyses carried out on urine samples and that process is clearly outlined in the participant facing documentation.
- The NREC-MD requests clarification whether tumour sampling and urine will be crossed checked to further investigate the specificity of the IVD device under investigation.
- Furthermore, the NREC-MD requests clarification whether the outcomes from CTIMP will be used to further establish the IVD efficiency/ specificity.
- Section F11 of the Application Form indicates that individuals with dementia or those who need additional support / have a particularly dependent relationship will be included in this study. However, Section H1 implies that all individuals will have decision making capacity. The NREC-MD requests clarification on decision making capacity and potential inclusion in the study.
- The NREC-MD requests that participants are given a minimum 24 hours to review and consider the Participant information Leaflet before their consent is sought.
- Section G4 of the Application Form indicates that prospective participants will be approached by their treating medical team (e.g. urologist) who believes that they may be a suitable candidate for the Janssen MoonRIse-1 clinical trial. The NREC-MD requests that in line with GCP, there is a clear separation of clinical and research activities as much as reasonably possible to minimise any perception of coercion.
- The Committee noted a number of inconsistencies in the document 17. ICF Molecular Eligibility_IE_eng_42756493BLC3004_v1_22Feb2024 and in addition to the points listed below requests that the document is revised in order to:
  - Clearly state that it is PIL/ICF for the performance study, not for molecular eligibility testing” to prevent confusion between clinical and medical procedures.
  - Clearly state that participation is voluntary.
  - Amend the title of the document to reflect the Performance Study under investigation.
  - Amend the title on the top of the consent form accordingly.
  - Include information on the device under investigation (what it is and how it will be evaluated).
  - Include information on the study procedures.
  - State how soon after screening/testing the participants would be enrolled in the clinical trial.
  - State what will be done with the samples / data from participants who are screened but are not enrolled in the clinical trial.

  - Revise the information on the risks of false positives/ negatives to clearly state
    - the likelihood of false positives/ negatives
    - that there are potential side effects from investigational drug if a participant is exposed to the IMP/ from being involved in the control arm as a result of a false positive result.
    - the risks associated with false negative being excluded from a study which they could potentially benefit from.
  - Revise the terminology throughout by replacing “patient” with “participant”.
  - Clarify the relationship between Janssen and Qiagen and explain the role of each in relation to this study.
  - Remove reference to the study drug nipocalimab and replaced with the CTIMP under investigation (erdafitinib).
  - Include at what point in the study samples will be anonymised and how this affects withdrawal from the study.
  - Include clear instructions on how to withdraw from the study.
  - Highlight the role of Dr Pieter-Jan Van Dam.
  - State participants rights under the GDPR.
  - Consent for transfer of data and samples outside of the EU is sought.
- The NREC-MD requests clarification on what happens with the samples of participants deemed illegible to participate in the trial. Will these will be returned back to the clinical site or destroyed?
- The NREC-MD noted the Sections K3 and L8 of the Application Form states that samples and data will be stored for a minimum of 15 years and that the sponsor may generate anonymous data or samples for the purposes of scientific research. Please note that the Data Protection Act 2018 allows for the use of broad, not blanket consent when it comes to further processing of personal data for the purposes of health research.

  Consent for future use of data must be limited to a particular disease area or more generally in that area or a related area of health research and must be clearly described in the Participant Information Leaflet. An example would be limiting future use of study data to the disease and / or medicinal product / device being studied.

  If intended for unspecified future use, consent to anonymise all data related to the biological samples should be sought from participants. However, please note that proposed deidentification of samples is inappropriate as genetic information cannot be truly anonymised. Future uses of tissue samples need explicit consent as blanket consent (for unspecified research) is not lawful.

  Please note that any future studies would be a subject to separate REC review. To that end, the Committee requests that the PIL/ ICF is amended accordingly.
- The NREC-MD requests a confirmation on whether there will be any direct payments to the investigators. Financial disclosure forms should be provided where relevant.

- The NREC-MD requests a confirmation on which of the options in the draft financial exhibit form for participant injury reimbursement will be applied for Irish sites.
- The NREC-MD requests a confirmation that the applicable valid insurance policies will be in place for the duration of the study.

23-NREC-MD-022-SM2

- Principal Investigator: Prof. Bryan Hennessy
- Study title: Single arm phase 2 trial of neoadjuvant trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) with response-directed definitive therapy in early stage HER2-positive breast cancer: a standard chemotherapy-sparing approach to curative-intent treatment (SHAMROCK)
- Lead institution: Beaumont Hospital, Beaumont Road, Dublin 9, Ireland
- Sponsor: Cancer Trials Ireland
- NREC-MD decision:
  - *Favourable*

22-NREC-MD-023-SM2

- Principal Investigator: Dr Dearbhaile Collins
- Study title: Clinical Performance Study Plan for FoundationOne CDX (F1CDx) used as a Clinical Trial Assay (CTA) in the Clinical Trial XPORT-EC-042 for Karyopharm Therapeutics Inc.
- Lead institution: Cork University Hospital, Wilton, Cork, Ireland
- Sponsor: Karyopharm Therapeutics Inc.
- NREC-MD Decision
  - *Favourable*

23-NREC-MD-002-SM3

- Principal Investigator: Prof. Gábor Széplaki
- Study title: SECURE - An observational post-marketing study for evaluation of ongoing safety and effectiveness of catheter mapping and ablation using commercially approved BWI medical devices for the treatment of patients with cardiac arrhythmias.
- Lead institution: Mater Private Hospital, 72 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, D07 RD8P, Ireland
- Sponsor: Biosense Webster, Inc.
- NREC-MD Decision
  - *Favourable*

23-NREC-MD-024-SM2

- Principal Investigator: Prof. Gabor Szeplaki
- Study title: Luma Vision's feasibility study on the VERAFEYE system (LUMINIZE).
- Lead institution: Mater Private Network, Eccles Street, Dublin 7, D07 WKW8
- Sponsor: LUMA Vision Ltd.
- NREC-MD Decision
  - *Favourable*

AOB

- Prof. Jim O'Neill informed the Committee that he is stepping down from the NREC-MD due to work commitments. The Chairperson thanked the outgoing member Prof. Jim O'Neill for his commitment to the Committee over the past six months.
- The Committee agreed the dates for 2025.
- The Committee noted the EUREC position paper on the compensation of research participants.
- The Committee engaged in a discussion regarding involvement of participants without proficient English. This discussion is ongoing and will be raised again at a later meeting.
- The Chairperson thanked the Committee and closed the meeting.