NATIONAL OFFICE FOR RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

National Research Ethics Committee

NREC-CT B

1st of September 2021

Attendance

Name	Role
Dr Jean Saunders	Acting Chairperson, NREC CT-B
Prof. John Faul	Deputy Chairperson, NREC-CT B
Ms Serena Bennett	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Mr Philip Berman	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Ms Mandy Daly	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Dr Enda Dooley	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Dr Lorna Fanning	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Dr John Hayden	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Mr Gavin Lawler	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Dr Mary McDonnell Naughton	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Dr Eimear McGlinchey	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Ms Caoimhe Gleeson	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Prof. Abhay Pandit	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Ms Paula Prendeville	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Dr Mark Robinson	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Prof. Colm O'Donnell	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Prof. David Smith	Committee Member, NREC-CT B
Ms Aileen Sheehy*	Programme Manager, National Office for RECs
Dr Laura Mackey*	Project Officer, National Office for RECs
Dr Jennifer Ralph James	Head, National Office for RECs

*Drafted minutes

Apologies: Dr Cliona McGovern

Quorum for decisions: Yes

Agenda

- Welcome & Apologies
- Application 21-NREC-CT-071
- Application 21-NREC-CT-059_AMEND-1
- Application 21-NREC-CT-069
- Application 21-NREC-CT-070
- Application 21-NREC-CT-060_AMEND-1
- AOB

- The Chair welcomed the NREC-CT B.
  - Ms Serena Bennett declared a conflict of interest for Application 21-NREC-CT-071 and did not attend the review of this application.
  - The Minutes from the NREC-CT B meeting on the 7th of July 2021 were approved.

Applications

21-NREC-CT-071

Principal Investigator: Professor Kenneth McDonald

- Study title: A Pivotal Phase 3 Randomized, Placebo-controlled Clinical Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of the sGC Stimulator Vericiguat/MK-1242 in Adults With Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction

Lead institution: Hear Failure Unit, St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

  - NREC-CT comments:

- The NREC-CT B noted that the clinical trial application represents a Phase 3 study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the sGC Stimulator Vericiguat/MK-1242 in Adults With Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction.
- The NREC-CT B were overall impressed with the application and considered it to be a well-designed trial.
- The NREC-CT A agreed that while some clarifications across the documentation were required, this application can be designated as Favourable with Conditions.

- NREC-CT Decision:

- Favourable with Conditions

- Associated Conditions:

- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provides participants with specific choices, in line with national regulations, as to how their samples and underlying data will be used for future purposes.
- The NREC-CT B requested that future use of samples and underlying data be limited to a specific disease area.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provides participants with a layered approach to consent.
- The NREC-CT B requested that consent for future use of samples and data is separated from the main Informed Consent form.
- The NREC-CT B requested confirmation that any future research project using samples or data from participants involved in this study will undergo full ethics review.

  The NREC-CT B noted inconsistencies in the terminologies to describe the illness across the participant materials and requested that a single term is used throughout.

21-NREC-CT-059

Principal Investigator: Dr Sinead Cuffe

Study title: A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind Trial of Platinum Doublet Chemotherapy +/- Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) as Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant Therapy for Participants with Resectable Stage II, IIIA, and Resectable IIIB (T3-4N2) Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) (KEYNOTE-671)

Lead institution: St James's Hospital, Dublin 8.

- NREC-CT Comments:

- The NREC-CT B noted this application represents a substantial amendment to a Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind Trial of Platinum Doublet Chemotherapy +/- Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) as Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant Therapy for Participants with Resectable Non-small Cell Lung Cancer.

- The NREC-CT B agreed that this substantial amendment application was well prepared and the updates to the study protocol and participant materials were clear and reasonable.
- The NREC-CT B noted that while additional clarity would be beneficial regarding consent for future use of biological samples as described in the original study application, this substantial amendment application can be designated as Favourable.

  - NREC-CT Decision:

- Favourable

21-NREC-CT-069

Principal Investigator: Professor John Crown

- Study title: A Phase 1/2 non-randomized, open-label, multi-cohort, multi-center study assessing the clinical benefit of SAR444245 (THOR- 707) combined with cemiplimab for the treatment of participants with advanced unresectable or metastatic skin cancers

Lead institution: St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin 4.

  - NREC-CT Comments:

- The NREC-CT B noted that the clinical trial application represents a Phase III study to assess the benefit of combining THOR- 707 with cemiplimab for treatment of advanced unresectable or metastatic skin cancers.
- The NREC-CT B noted the application was well-written and the study was well-designed.
- The NREC-CT B agreed that while additional information and clarifications were required in a number of documents included in the applications, this can be designated a Favourable with Conditions.

  - NREC-CT Decision:

- Favourable with Conditions

  - Associated Conditions:

- The NREC-CT B requested further information on the risk vs. benefit profile for women of child-bearing age to be included in the study protocol.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provides additional detail to ensure that participants (or the legal representatives) have understood the information and that consent is fully informed during the recruitment process.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provide a Plain English executive summary describing the salient points of the study, to complement the PIL.

- The NREC-CT B considered the diagram on page 4 of the PIL to be too complex and requested revision or removal from the document.
- The NREC-CT B requested the removal of the following statement from the PIL 'Please be aware that if you do not continue with the study procedures, this could jeopardise the public health value of the study'.
- The Committee requested that a separate form is completed for each and all sites involved in the trial.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provides participants with specific choices, in line with national regulations, as to how their samples and underlying data will be used for future purposes.
- The NREC-CT B requested that future use of samples and underlying data be limited to a specific disease area.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provides participants with a layered approach to consent.
- The NREC-CT B requested that consent for future use of samples and data is separated from the main Informed Consent form.
- The NREC-CT B requested confirmation that any future research project using samples or data from participants involved in this study will undergo full ethics review.
- The NREC-CT B requested further information around who from the study team will be responsible for anonymisation of data.
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21-NREC-CT-070

Principal Investigator: Dr Dearbhaile Collins

- Study title: A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Study Comparing Niraparib Plus Pembrolizumab Versus Placebo Plus Pembrolizumab as Maintenance Therapy in Participants Whose Disease has Remained Stable or Responded to First-Line Platinum-Based Chemotherapy with Pembrolizumab for Stage IIIB or IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Lead institution: Cork University Hospital

- NREC-CT Comments:

- The NREC-CT B noted that the clinical trial application represents a Phase 3 Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Study Comparing Niraparib Plus Pembrolizumab Versus Placebo Plus Pembrolizumab as Maintenance Therapy for Stage IIIB or IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.
- The NREC-CT B considered this a well-presented application and commented favourably on the addition of a 'Trial Brochure' as an example of good clinical practice.
- The NREC-CT B agreed that while additional revisions to the patient materials were required, this application can be designated Favourable with Conditions.
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- NREC-CT Decision:

- Favourable with Conditions

- Additional Information Required:

- The NREC-CT B requested further information on the criteria to determine whether a participant is offered this option to participate in a roll-over study.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the potential risk of additional exposure to ionising radiation due to the imaging is explained within the PIL in a comprehendible manner.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the PIL should also specify that if the participant is eligible for a brain MRI, then they should receive this over the CT imaging to reduce exposure to radiation.
- The NREC-CT B requests that the risks around genetic testing is further elucidated in the participant materials to ensure that the participant is fully informed.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the PIL states that results from hepatitis and HIV tests conducted on participants will be communicated to them.
- The Committee requested that the applicant adds a statement in the PIL that home visits will be in compliance with COVID-related requirements.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provides participants with specific choices, in line with national regulations, as to how their samples and underlying data will be used for future purposes.
- The NREC-CT B requested that future use of samples and underlying data be limited to a specific disease area.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the applicant provides participants with a layered approach to consent.
- The NREC-CT B requested that consent for future use of samples and data is separated from the main Informed Consent form.
- The NREC-CT B requested confirmation that any future research project using samples or data from participants involved in this study will undergo full ethics review.
- The NREC-CT B requested that a single term is used throughout consistently to address inconsistencies noted in the terminologies to describe the illness across the participant materials.
- The NREC-CT B requested further information about how personal data from participants will be stored and secured.

21-NREC-CT-060_AMEND-1

Principal Investigator: Professor Killian Hurley

- Study title: Zephyrus II: A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Efficacy and Safety Study of Pamrevlumab in Subjects with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)

Lead institution: Beaumont Hospital

- NREC-CT Comments:

- The NREC-CT B noted that this substantial amendment application represents an update to the Protocol, Participant Materials, and Investigator Brochure of a Phase 3 Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Efficacy and Safety Study of Pamrevlumab in Subjects with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF).
- The NREC-CT B agreed that a significant number of substantial amendments were included in this application and therefore, is not in a position to return a final ethics opinion based on the information and documentation received thus far. In this regard, the Committee requires additional information to inform its deliberations.
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- NREC-CT Decision:

- Request for Further Information

- Additional Information Required:

- The Committee requested further information on how participants already enrolled in the study will be reconsented using the updated PIL/ICF and who will undertake the reconsenting.
- The NREC-CT B noted that the consent form for DNA sample collection has not been submitted. The NREC-CT request that this is submitted for review.
- The NREC-CT B noted that the consent form has not been updated to reflect the changes to the endpoints inclusive of exploratory biomarkers.
- The NREC-CT B required a rational for not including specific consent for the future use of data in the consent form.
- The NREC-CT B requested that the changes to language in the PIL-ICF are revised for to improve the readability. For example, the section ‘How will this study be carried out?’.
- The NREC-CT B noted that the blood volumes referenced are now inconsistent and have not been correspondingly updated in the PIL-ICF.
- The NREC-CT B requested a layered approach to consent is implemented in the Informed Consent Forms rather than just a signature.
- The NREC-CT B requested assurance that the changes to the patient materials will be adequately explained to participants, in particular the new section on COVID-19.
- The NREC-CT B requested further information on the countries where Regulatory Agencies do not allow the collection of biomarker samples and DNA samples, which should also be included in the Participant Materials.
- The NREC-CT B requested further information on how much notice will be provided to both participants and GPs prior to the discontinuation of the OLE.

- AOB:
  - The NREC-CT B discussed a consistent approach in managing data protection related issues across applications.
- The Chair closed the meeting.