

## MULTI-REGIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS

THE MRCT CENTER of
BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
and HARVARD

## Reimagining Clinical Trials: Learning from COVID-19

June 24, 2021





The MRCT Center is a research and policy center focused on addressing the conduct, oversight, ethics and regulatory environment for clinical trials.







#### The MRCT Center

#### **Our Vision**

Improve the integrity, safety, and rigor of global clinical trials.

#### **Our Mission**

Engage diverse stakeholders to define emerging issues in global clinical trials and to create and implement ethical, actionable, and practical solutions.





## Reimaging Clinical Trials: Learnings from COVID-19

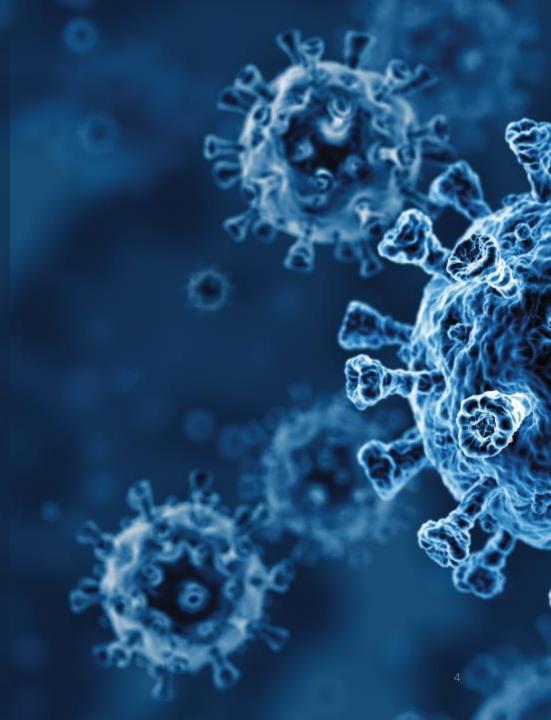
2 Meeting Dates

#### June 16, 2021, 10AM-1PM EDT

Permissible flexibilities to study conduct and coordination and the implications for the clinical trial workforce in this new environment.

#### June 24, 2021, 10AM-1PM EDT

Regulatory flexibilities, international cooperativity, and governance.



### Reimaging Clinical Trials: Learnings from COVID-19



#### **Our Goal**

- What is the vision for new ways of conducting clinical trials?
- What worked, what did not work, and what we need to analyze further?
- How do we build upon experiences of clinical trials during the COVID-19 pandemic

### June 16, 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM EDT

	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
	10:00 AM – 10:30 AM EDT	<b>Introduction &amp; Keynote speaker:</b> The Future of Clinical Trials	•Barbara Bierer, Faculty Director, MRCT Center •Sarah White, Executive Director, MRCT Center •Esther Krofah, Executive Director, FasterCures
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM EDT	<b>First Panel:</b> Useful and permissible flexibilities: A discussion of regulatory, protocol, and study conduct flexibilities that can and should be sustained in the future, that should be eliminated, and for which further experience is necessary	<ul> <li>*Lindsey Baden, Division's Director of Clinical Research, Brigham and Women's Hospital/ Dana-Farber Cancer Institute</li> <li>*Penny Carlson, Vice President, Head of Global Development Support, Takeda</li> <li>*Valen Keefer, Patient Advocate for polycystic kidney disease (PKD) and Organ Donation</li> <li>*Isaac R. Rodriguez-Chavez, Head, Global Center of Excellence Strategy for Decentralized Clinical Trials, PRAHealthSciences</li> <li>Moderator:</li> <li>*Paul Kluetz, Deputy Director, Oncology Center of Excellence, U.S. FDA</li> </ul>
	11:30 AM – 11:40 AM	BREAK	
	11:40 AM – 12:40 PM EDT	Second Panel: Implications for and need to re-imagine the workforce in a reimagined clinical research enterprise	•Nicholas Brooke, Founder & Executive Director of The Synergist, Chief Executive Officer of Patient Focused Medicines Development (PFMD) •Andrea Ferris, President and Chief Executive Officer, LUNGEvity •Andrew (Andy) Lee, Senior Vice President, Head of Global Clinical Trial Operations, Merck •Harpreet Singh, Director of Division of Oncology, U.S. FDA Moderator: •Craig Lipset, Co-Chair of Decentralized Trials & Research Alliance
	12:40 PM -	Discussion and wrap-up	•Moderators Paul Kluetz and Craig Lipset
ine 2021	EDT	©MRCT Center	•Barbara Bierer, Faculty Director, MRCT Center •Sarah White, Executive Director, MRCT Center

### June 24, 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM EDT

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS		
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM EDT	Introduction & Keynote speakers Reimagining Clinical Trials: Learning from COVID-19 — Fergus Sweeney Aligning global clinical trial requirements — Ginny Beakes-Read	<ul> <li>Sarah White, Executive Director, MRCT Center</li> <li>Fergus Sweeney, Head, Clinical Studies and Manufacturing Taskforce,</li> <li>European Medicines Agency (EMA)</li> <li>Ginny Beakes-Read, Executive Director, Global Regulatory and R&amp;D Policy,</li> <li>Amgen</li> </ul>		
10:45 AM - 11:40 AM EDT	First Panel – Enabling regulatory flexibilities in a global context	•Taras Carpiac, Executive Director, Innovation & Process Improvement, Amgen •Lauren Hartsmith, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Advarra •Richard Moscicki, Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President of Science and Regulatory Advocacy, PhRMA •Névine Zariffa, Principal and Founder, NMD Group Moderator: •Barbara Bierer, Faculty Director, MRCT Center		
11:40 AM - 11:50 AM	BREAK			
11:50 AM - 12:45 PM EDT	Second Panel – Regulatory cooperation and communication and issues of governance in a global pandemic	<ul> <li>M. Khair ElZarrad, Deputy Director, Office of Medical Policy at Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), U.S. FDA</li> <li>Owen Fields, Vice President for Regulatory Strategy, Research and Development, Pfizer</li> <li>Steven Kern, Deputy Director of Quantitative Sciences, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</li> <li>Fergus Sweeney, Head, Clinical Studies and Manufacturing Taskforce, European Medicines Agency (EMA)</li> <li>Moderator:</li> <li>Mark Barnes, Faculty Co-Director, MRCT Center; Partner, Ropes &amp; Gray</li> </ul>		
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM EDT	Discussion and wrap-up	<ul> <li>Barbara Bierer, Faculty Director, MRCT Center</li> <li>Mark Barnes, Faculty Co-Director, MRCT Center; Partner, Ropes &amp; Gray</li> </ul>		

### Closed Caption Settings



#### **Closed Captioning**

Small Large

Captions will look like this

Closed Caption size can be increased by clicking on the Closed Captions button and viewing the "subtitle settings".

Chat Display Size (第 +/-)



### Thank you to the Planning Committee

Maria Apostolaros, PhRMA

Ginny Beakes-Read, Amgen

David Peloquin, Ropes & Gray

Michele Russell-Einhorn, Advarra

Shona Sanchita Pendse, Kowa

Jessica Scott, Takeda

Moke Sharma, Alexion

Michael Steel, Novartis

Fergus Sweeney, EMA

MRCT Center team

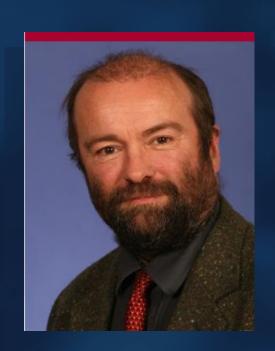
Carmen Aldinger Barbara Bierer Sarah White





## MULTI-REGIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS

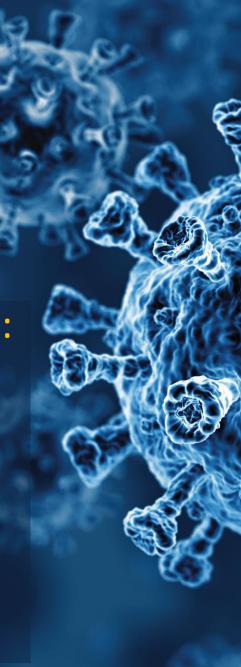
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# Keynote 1: Reimagining Clinical Trials: Learning from COVID-19

Fergus Sweeney,

Head, Clinical Studies and Manufacturing Taskforce, European Medicines Agency (EMA)





#### Reimagining Clinical Trials: Learning from COVID-19



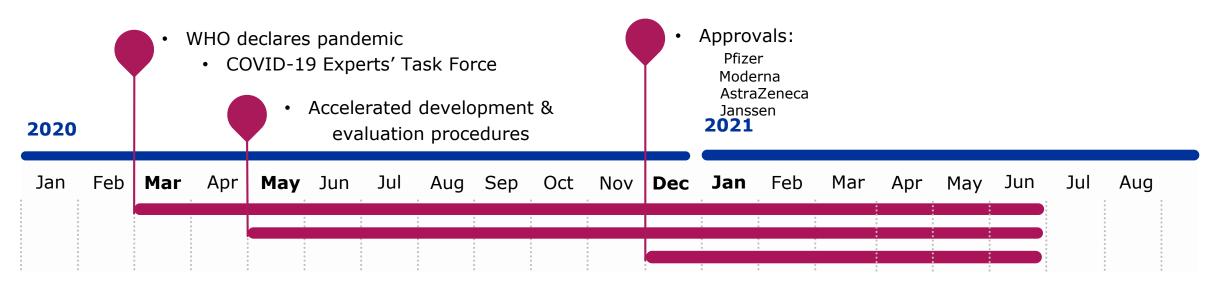
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The presenter does not have any conflict of interests.



#### Milestones in EMA response to COVID-19 pandemic



## Scientific & regulatory mobilisation

- COVID-19 Task Force
  - EU Network
  - International

## **Development &**evaluation

- Guidance to developers
- Early scientific advice
  - Rapid procedures

## Essential medicines' supplies

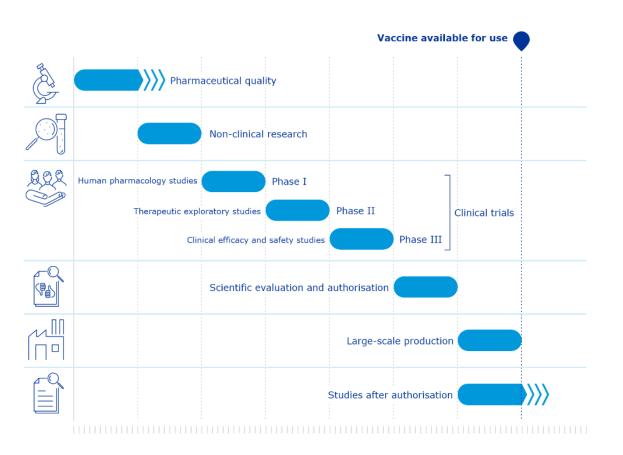
- EU coordination
- Preventing shortages

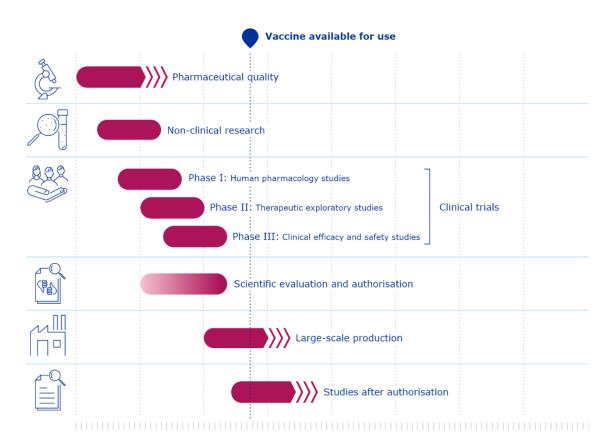
## Transparency & outreach

- Public engagement
- Communication



# COVID-19 vaccines compared with standard vaccines



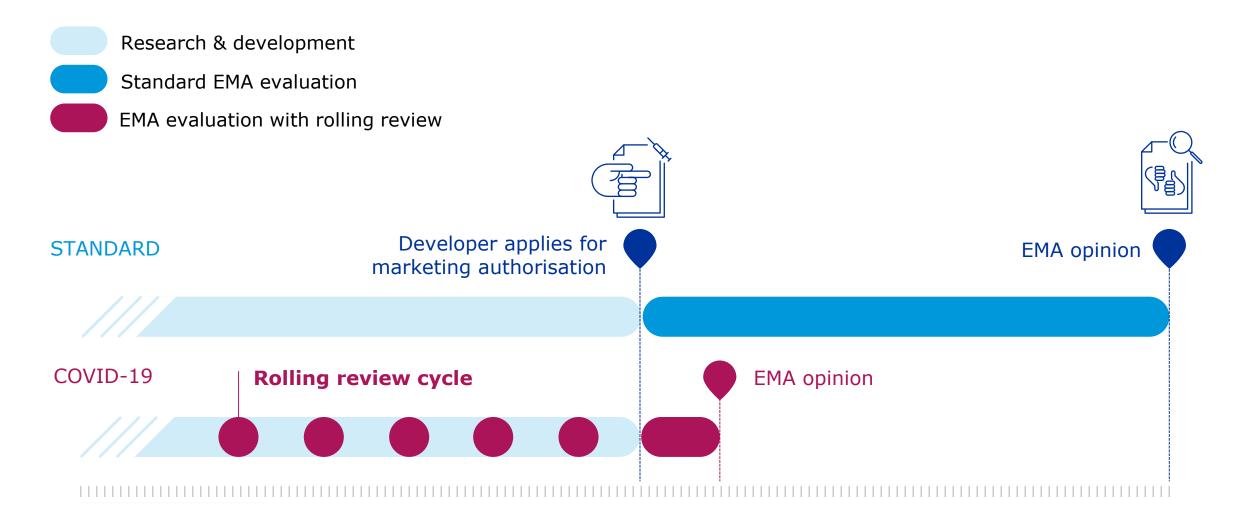


**Standard Vaccines** 

**COVID-19 Vaccines** 



### Rolling review and Marketing Authorisation



### Conditional Marketing Authorisation



- Approval for medicines to be used in public health emergencies
  - as soon as data available show that benefits outweigh the risks
  - other data must be provided by the company, after approval (e.g. long term protection data)
- It has all safeguards and controls in place to ensure high level of protection to citizens during a mass vaccination campaign
  - A robust monitoring plan for managing safety
  - Clear legal framework for evaluation of emerging efficacy data
  - Manufacturing controls including batch controls for vaccines
  - Full prescribing information and package leaflet with defined conditions for storage and use of the vaccine
  - A plan for use of the vaccine in children
  - Additional studies or other data ('conditions') that the company is legally obliged
    to provide with defined timelines

### ICMRA and COVID-19 response since April 2020





- > 30 countries
- Executive level
- WHO Observer



- Forum to support strategic coordination and support public confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics
- Bi-weekly Policy TCs ensures sharing of information and promote convergence
- Regular Working Group coordinates technical work streams
  - Vaccine Pharmacovigilance Network, including work on vaccine confidence
  - Regulatory Agility
  - Digital transformation of GCP and GMP inspections and clinical trials
- Workshops to promote convergence in regulatory approached on: responding to virus variants; inclusion of pregnant and lactating women in trials; reinforcing pharmacovigilance collaboration

# Opening our Procedures at EMA to Non-EU authorities: the OPEN Initiative

- Under OPEN WHO and medicines regulators from outside the EU take part in EMA's scientific evaluations
- Drivers: sharing scientific expertise, tackling common challenges, enhancing transparency on regulatory decisions
- Pilot launched December 2020 for COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics with TGA Australia, Health Canada, MHLW/PMDA Japan, Swissmedic and WHO
- Participate in CHMP assessments and COVID-19 EMA pandemic Task Force
- Experts keep full scientific and regulatory independence, and participate under existing confidentiality arrangements; have no role in final CHMP B/R decision









## GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CLINICAL TRIALS DURING THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC

Enable continuation of treatment

**Ensure Safety reporting** 

Ensure reliability of trial results, enable trials to continue

Mitigate burden on clinical site staff and facilities and on participants.

Enable management of clinical trials whilst maintain social distancing.

# Guidance on the Management of Clinical Trials during the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

Use Risk assessment

Changes to:

- informed consent process
- distribution of IMP, diagnostics etc
- monitoring and auditing

## Learning from Experience



Rapid responses and regulatory flexibilities

Pandemic still ongoing and evolving, fast learning and adaptation

Evolving regulatory landscape:

- Use of digital tools has been accelerated
- Dialogue has been significantly increased along development pathway
- Reflect on experience, improve and select what works
- Need feasible, sustainable, tools for longer term, but it will be a new, different, landscape
- We can change now to act by design, and less by reaction to necessity
- Keep regulatory standards high along with speed and innovation

#### Key developments

- Complex Clinical Trials:
  - <u>CTFG Reflection Paper: Recommendation Paper on the Initiation and Conduct of Complex Clinical Trials 12 February 2019</u>
  - Ongoing discussions with industry and academia associations and Q&A development CTFG, EMA, European Commission
- Decentralised Clinical Trials.
  - Ongoing discussions on frameworks and pilots CTFG, EMA, European Commission.



# Redesign our approach to enable innovation in a Rapidly Evolving Ecosystem



Set the foundations to enable innovation by design and not by reaction

### Clinical Trials of the Future – some of the challenges

 Digitalisation – use of more diverse tools and data sources, changing means of interaction between people and information, building trust in the data and in its use

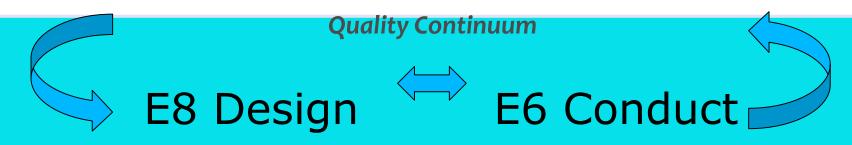
Ensuring, sufficiently powered (often large), well designed, randomised, clinical trials

 Platform trials and master protocols – maximising the benefit of scientific investigation on a large scale

### ICH GCP Renovation



- Establish a quality continuum throughout design and conduct. Design that involves engagement with stakeholders including patients and investigators
- The purpose of clinical trials is to generate information to support decision making their quality must be sufficient to protect participants and generate results that support good decision making
- ICH E8 focus on achieving quality by good design, with a risk based, proportional approach, ICH E8 and E6 need modernising to set the foundation for:
  - future medicines, future trial designs, future technologies, future data sources



### ICH GCP Draft Principles



10- Clinical trials should generate reliable results.

- 10.1 The quality and amount of the information ....sufficient to provide confidence in the trial's results and support good decision making.
- 10.2 Systems and processes ..... implemented in a way that is proportionate to the risks to participants and the reliability of trial results.
- 10.3 Tools .....should be fit for purpose, should capture the information required by the protocol, and should conform to principles that ensure reliable results.
- 10.4 Digital systems used for clinical trial purposes should consider the factors critical to their quality in their design and be fit for purpose. To this end, validation of systems, data protection, information technology (IT) security and user management are important elements that should be addressed.

### ICH GCP Draft Principles



10.5 ...efficient and well-controlled processes for managing information ... data integrity, traceability, and protection of personal information, thereby allowing the accurate reporting, interpretation, and verification of the clinical trial-related information.

10.6 .....information ...retained .. by sponsors and investigators......to enable reconstruction of the trial conduct and results in order to ensure reliability of trial results.

10.7 The transparency of clinical trials ....includes registration on publicly accessible and recognized databases, and the public posting of clinical trial results.

10.8 The principles .....apply irrespective of the type of media used.

### Digitalisation - Challenges



- Establishing Trust
  - Data provenance, validity (technical and scientific)
  - New data sources
  - Personal data protection ensure protection whilst enabling clinical trial data to be used well – both are legitimate expectations of trial participants
  - Complex landscape or data generation, collection and analysis, digital communication, remote visits, use of wearables, electronic informed consent
- Need to set standards for use of digital tools and information that are universally applicable, future proof, ensure data trust and participant protection but support innovation and new approaches
- EU GCP IWG Draft Guideline on computerised systems and electronic data in clinical trials - open for comment 18 June to 17 Dec 2021

https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/regulatory-procedural-guideline/draft-guideline-computerised-systems-electronic-data-clinical-trials\_en.pdf



#### The benefits of large scale RCTs



- Experience and data in clinical trial registers shows that far too many trials are small, underpowered and poorly designed.
- Fewer, well designed, large RCTs, run multinationally would deliver better information for regulatory and healthcare decision making
- COVID experience has reinforced this message very strongly

Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

REVIEW 🙃 Open Access

Clinical trials for Covid-19: can we better use the short window of opportunity?

Hans-Georg Eichler ☒, Marco Cavaleri, Harald Enzmann, Francesca Scotti, Bruno Sepodes, Fergus Sweeney, Spiros Vamvakas, Guido Rasi

#### Enabling large trials

- Build and maintain large investigator networks
- Link national and regional investigator networks, at regional and multi-regional level
- Provide infrastructure for the networks, independently of public or private trial sponsors
- Enable trials involving (multiple) public health and or private sponsors
- Build infrastructure for health bodies to sponsor international trials across different jurisdictions and to act as the lead and applicant across all jurisdictions
- Address drivers of small trials poor funding, lack of network opportunity, need for academic recognition
- How can small trial proposals be referred to large trial groups?

#### Platform trials

- Some clear successes during COVID19
- Challenges:
  - Running platform trials across multiple countries and regions as a clear single protocol
    with a clear sponsor to apply for and manage the clinical trial
  - Managing trials with products in development and established products (registration goal and therapeutic guidance/repurposing of established medicines
  - How much can be managed in a single platform trial
  - Scientific and methodology challenges
  - Objectives medicine registration, repurposing....
  - Infrastructure and trial management
  - Clinical trial authorisation thinking outside of the box e.g. is a platform trial one or several, grouped, trials for purposes of

Change the way we all work – don't add more to the status quo.

Change Management is the greatest challenge

adjusting behaviors, attitudes – away from preconceived ideas
 and interests – and on to a new, better, way of working.

"Perfection is achieved not when there is nothing more to add but when there is nothing left to take away" Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

"Everything should be made as simple as possible but not simpler" Albert Einstein

### Build future for clinical trials by design



Develop standards for digital tools used in clinical trials. Enable new data sources

Build trust in the validity of data and in protection of participant privacy

Ensure properly powered, large, randomised clinical trials

Enable large investigator networks, and link networks between regions. Develop infrastructure to support them.

Develop the science and regulatory models for platform trials. Enable them to work across countries and regions

24 June 2021

#### And now the discussion

#### **Further information**

Fergus.Sweeney@ema.europa.eu

Official address Domenico Scarlattilaan 6 • 1083 HS Amsterdam • The Netherlands Telephone +31 (0)88 781 6000

Send us a question Go to www.ema.europa.eu/contact





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# Keynote 2: Aligning global clinical trial requirements

Ginny Beakes-Read, Executive Director, Global Regulatory and R&D Policy, Amgen



**Ginny Beakes-Read Global Regulatory and R&D Policy** 

June 24, 2021



#### **BACKGROUND**

- Amgen used SmartSheet tool to collect content and Amgen interpretation of global regulatory guidelines
- Colors in charts visually illustrate Amgen interpretations of regulatory guidance, such as:
  - Additional procedural steps needed
  - No guidance available
  - Guidance permits a flexible approach



#### COVID-19 Clinical Trial Regulatory Guidance



#### Clinical Trial Priority Topics - Comparison Charts

All Countries



Intercontinental









ICMRA Health Authorities

**Key Health Authorities** 







Sub-Topic Metrics

#### Regulatory / IRB / EC Communications

- Enrollment Pause/Restart w/Comments- Submission to HA
- Enrollment Pause Submission to HA
- Enrollment Restart Submission to HA
- Enrollment Restart Submission HA vs EC/IRB
- Protocol Deviations Required Actions
- Temporary Use of Telemedicine Submission to HA
- Wet Ink Signature Requirement

#### Resources

- OVID-19 Regulatory Guidance Tracker (View Only \* w / links to country specific guidance GENERAL USE )
- COVID-19 Regulatory Guidance Tracker (Admin Only)





#### Contacts

Amgen Lead: Ginny Beakes-Read

Design, Content Input, & Review: Laura Bloss, Jae Chang, Heloisa Fostinone, Melissa Eisen, Kulbir Malek, Tamura Della Mussia

Reporting and Dashboard: Maddie Neisser, Heather Case

#### **Study Visits / Procedures**

- Alternative Methods of Consent Permitted?
- Use of Local Labs
- Guidance Permits Remote SDR/SDV

Sub-Topic Metrics



#### Investigational Product / Shipment

#### Safety / Efficacy

#### **COMPARISON GRID OF SELECT HEALTH AUTHORITIES**

Country / Health Authority	Enrollment Restart - Submission to HA	Temp. Use of Telemedicine - Submission to HA?	Protocol Deviations - Required Actions	Guidance Permits Remote SDR/SDV	Local Labs - Submission to HA?	Alternative Methods of Consent - Permitted?	Alternative Means of Drug Delivery - Permitted?
Australia (CTPRG / TGA)	Not Required	Depends on Nature of Deviation or Modification	Notify and/or submit in bulk	Yes	Permitted; Requires notification	Permitted	Permitted; No notification required
Belgium (FAMHP)	Notification Only	Depends on Nature of Deviation or Modification	Additional considerations. See comments.	No	Not addressed in guidance	Permitted	Permitted; Additional notification/submission considerations. See comments.
Canada (Health Canada)	Notification Only	Not Required	Notification	Not addressed in guidance	Permitted; No notification required	Requires notification and/or approval	Permitted; No notification required
European Union (EMA)	Notification Only	Not Required	Follow Sponsor's standard procedures	Follows EMA Guidance Under special circumstances	Permitted; Requires notification	Requires notification and/or approval	Permitted; Additional notification/submission considerations. See comments.
Germany (BfArM / PEI)	Submission; Approval Required	Depends on Nature of Deviation or Modification	Not addressed in guidance	Under special circumstances	Permitted; Additional notification/submissic considerations. See comments.	Permitted	Permitted; Additional notification/submission considerations. See comments.
Japan (PMDA)	Not Required	Not Required	Document	Not addressed in guidance	Permitted; No notification required	Not addressed in guidance	Permitted; No notification required
UK (MHRA)	Not Required	Not Required	Document	Under special circumstances	Permitted; No notification required	Additional considerations	Permitted; No notification required
United States (FDA)	Not Required	Depends on Nature of Deviation or Modification	Document	Yes	Permitted; Additional notification/submissio considerations. See comments.	Permitted	Permitted; Additional notification/submission considerations. See comments.





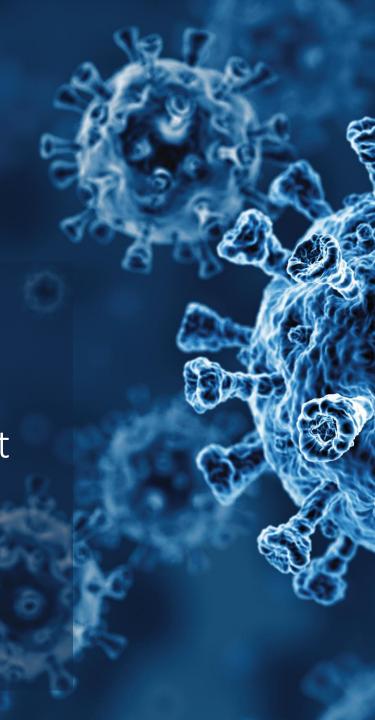
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#### First Panel:

Enabling regulatory flexibilities in a global context

10:45 AM - 11:40 AM EDT



### Panelists



**Taras Carpiac** Amgen



Richard Moscicki PhRMA



**Barbara Bierer** MRCT Center



**Lauren Hartsmith** Advarra



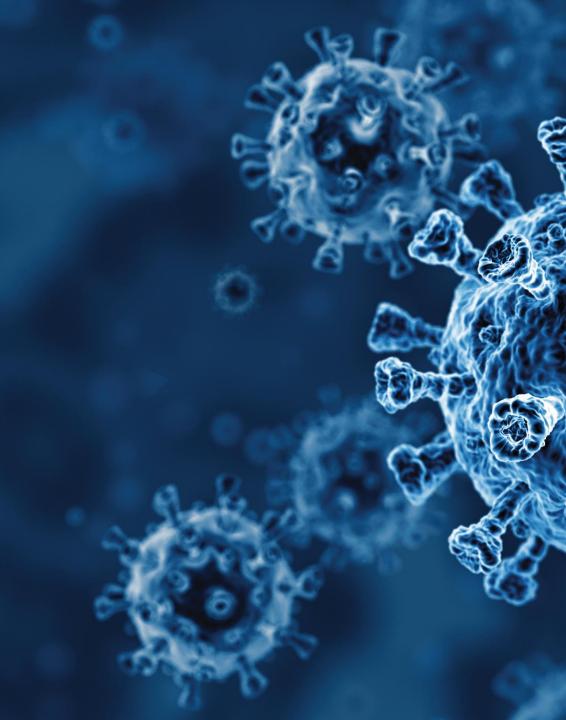
**Névine Zariffa** NMD Group

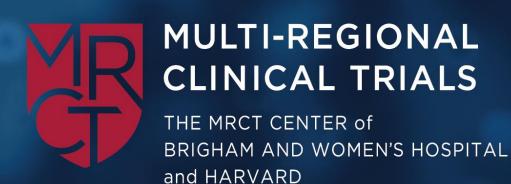


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> BREAK 10 min





#### **Second Panel:**

Regulatory cooperation and communication and issues of governance in a global pandemic

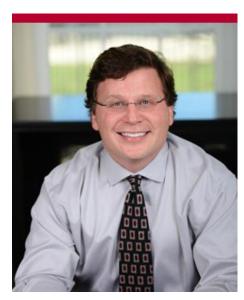
11:50 AM - 12:45 PM EDT



#### Panelists



M. Khair ElZarrad US FDA



Owen Fields
Pfizer



Mark Barnes
MRCT Center &
Ropes & Gray



**Steven Kern**Bill & Melinda
Gates Foundation



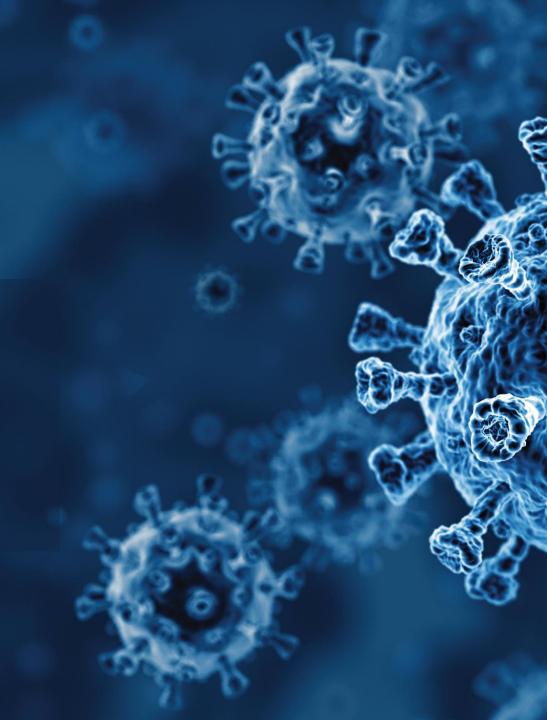
**Fergus Sweeney**European
Medicines Agency



## MULTI-REGIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS

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Discussion and Wrap-up



#### Recordings Available

 https://mrctcenter.org/newsevents/reimagining-clinicaltrials-learning-from-covid-19/ The **first meeting (June 16, 2021, 10AM-1PM EDT)** will focus on permissible flexibilities to study conduct and coordination, including site flexibilities, decentralized trials, and other changes, and the implications for the clinical research workforce in this new environment. The **second meeting (June 24, 2021, 10AM-1PM EDT)** will focus on regulatory flexibilities, international cooperativity, and governance. The meeting is open to all interested stakeholders and to the public.

REGISTER for the first meeting, June 16, 2021, 10 AM – 1 PM EDT REGISTER for the second meeting, June 24, 2021, 10 AM – 1 PM EDT

#### June 16, 2021: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm EDT

+ Agenda
+ Speaker Information
+ June 16, 2021 Webinar Recording, Slides and Transcript

June 24, 2021: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm EDT

+ Agenda
+ Speaker Information

#### **Planning Committee**





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Thank You

