# ISCTM/ECNP Joint Covid-19 CNS Clinical Trial Methodologies Blueprint Working Group

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ISCTM
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CNS CLINICAL TRIALS AND METHODOLOGY

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ECNP

# ISCTM-ECNP Covid-19 Working Group



The ISCTM/ECNP COVID-19 CNS Clinical Trial Methodologies Blueprint WG was created to navigate the COVID-19 disruption and unfold its transformative potential in clinical trials methodologies.

The objectives of the working group are to:

I. Determine the effect of the COVID-19 on analysis and interpretation of CNS clinical trial data (safety endpoints, efficacy endpoints, rater training, in clinic and remote monitoring through digital technology, e.g., sensors/wearables, apps) using 3 diverse disease states as specific examples

II. Describe impact of direct effects as well as post-COVID syndromes on CNS clinical trials (neurological manifestations, NEURO-COVID, depression, anxiety, PTSD, etc.) to inform the COVID-19 lessons learned session at the Fall 2021 joint ISCTM/ECNP meeting from 30 September – 02 October

III. Develop guidelines for trial design modifications to assist sponsor companies in minimizing risks to data integrity, with a focus on regulatory, technological, operational and methodological issues related to COVID-19. The guidelines will be published in a manuscript to inform trials impacted by future public health emergencies or natural disasters.

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# CASE STUDIES

ECNP neuroscience applied

| Name | Institution | Role | Indication |
|---|---|---|---|
| Raenne Moore | University of California, San Diego | Academia | Mild Cognitive Impairment |
| Salvador Rico | Encoded Therapeutics | Industry | Dravet Syndrome |
| Idan Menashe | The National Autism Research Center of Israel, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel | Academia | Autism Spectrum Disorder |
| Janko Samardzic | University of Belgrade, Serbia | Academia | Relapsing Remitting Multiple Sclerosis |
| Atul Mahableshwarkar | Emalex Biosciences Inc | Industry | Tourette's Syndrome |
| Nick DeMartinis | Praxis Precision Medicines | Industry | Major Depression |
| Alessandra Minelli | University of Brescia | Academia | Treatment Resistant Depression |
| Joanne Bell | Syneos Heath | CRO | Alzheimer's disease |
| Bob Litman | CBH Health, Cenexel Research Network (Site) | Site | Serious Mental Illness (BD, MDD, SCZ) |
| Ramzey Odetella | Acadia Pharmaceuticals | Industry | Rett Syndrome (MDD, PDP, SCZ?) |
| Amy Bilderbeck | P1vital | Industry | RTOC study |
| Nemeth Gyorgy | Gedeon Richter (Hungarian pharma company) | Industry | |
| Andreas Chatzittofis | University of Cyprus | Academia | MDD |
| Kemi Olugemo | Ionis Pharmaceuticals | Industry | Hereditary amyloidosis |

# Manuscript #1

**Title:** Conducting CNS trials during a public health emergency – lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic: a joint ISCTM/ECNP Working Group Consensus Paper

Objective: to describe general guidelines for CNS trial design modifications and methodological issues to maintain data integrity during a public health emergency.

## OUTLINE

- Abstract
- Background
- Operational Perspectives
- Country and region-specific considerations
- The Site perspective
- Rating Scales
- Digital solutions and endpoints
- Statistical considerations
- Regulatory considerations
- Conclusions/Future work

# Manuscript #2

**Title**: Implications for the analysis of CNS clinical trial data collected during the pandemic.

**Objective**: To review the hard and soft impacts that the ongoing global pandemic has on the conduct of CNS clinical trials using representative case studies from patients with serious mental illness.

Specifically, how that impact affected the data acquisition and subsequent analysis through case studies of trials that were initiated and/or completed during and after the pandemic.

We will examine how the fore – and background forces of the pandemic impacted the quality and eventual outcomes of the clinical trials under review.

We will consider whether the patient populations recruited were differentially affected according to their diagnosis, the tasks, questionnaires and other measures under investigation.

We will also consider whether the additional safety measures implemented to protect patients from COVID infection during site visits; we will attempt to determine what data can and cannot be collected successful under these circumstances.

We will also consider whether anecdotal observations by researchers can provide meaningful insights into the interpretation of data conducted during the pandemic.

Manuscript #2 :

**Title**: Implications for the analysis of CNS clinical trial data collected during the pandemic.

**Objective: Provide a companion paper to Manuscript 1**

1. Capture, ideas, thoughts observations regarding the conduct of clinical trials during in a pandemic
2. Provide insights and learnings gain from the personal experience of conducting trials during the pandemic

**Themes**

- Impact of the pandemic on the quality of the data collected
- Sponsors' attitude to risk and response to conducting trials during a pandemic
- Operational effect of conducting observations, tasks and questionnaires with COVID protective measures in place.
- Whether different patient groups are more or less affected by the fore and background pandemic forces
- Is the conduct of the different Phases of clinical trials differentially effected by the pandemic?
- What were, if any, the positive effects of conducting trials during the pandemic
- A Case History would be most welcome

**Happy to have volunteers to address particular aspects of the above or please send your thoughts/ observations to Gerry or Dragana on any of the above and we will collate into a draft for review**

# Target journals and timeline

- *ECNP Journal*
- *Contemporary Clinical Trials* is an international peer reviewed journal that publishes manuscripts pertaining to all aspects of clinical trials, including, but not limited to, design, conduct, analysis, regulation and ethics.
  - Impact Factor 2.226
  - Open access
  - 4.7 weeks review time, 1 week publication time

- *Clinical Trials* is dedicated to advancing knowledge on the design and conduct of clinical trials related research methodologies
  - Impact Factor 2.486

- *BMC Medical Research Methodology* is an open access journal publishing original peer-reviewed research articles in methodological approaches to healthcare research

- Draft 1 – End of January 2022
- DocMatter access for collaborative editing with core manuscript team only. Email review for the rest of the WG (i.e., non-core team)

Thank you!

# List of contributors (to date)

- Eduard Vieta
- Franco Di Cesare
- Dejan Stevanović
- Janko Samardzic
- Andreas Chatzittofis