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| **Committee:** | Northern B Health and Disability Ethics Committee |
| **Meeting date:** | 05 December 2023 |
| **Zoom details:** | 965 0758 9841 |

| **Time** | **Review Reference** | **Project Title** | **Coordinating Investigator** | **Lead Reviewers** |
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| 11:30am - 12:00pm | 2023 FULL 18925 | VISTA | Dr Sanjeevan Pasupati | Kate / Barry |
| 12:00 - 12:30pm | 2023 FULL 18627 | 03.18 I-MAT: Immunotherapy Merkel Adjuvant Trial: A randomised, placebo-controlled, phase II trial of adjuvant Avelumab in patients with stage I-III Merkel cell carcinoma | Dr Gareth Rivalland | Maakere/ Leesa |
| 12:30 - 1:00pm | 2023 FULL 19250 | 023 Efficacy &safety of GSK’s investigational RSV vaccine in lung & renal transplant recipients (≥18 years) comparing 1 or 2 doses & compared to healthy adults (≥50 years of age) receiving 1 dose | Dr Nine Smuts | Ewe Leong/ Amber |
| 1:00 - 1:30pm | 2023 FULL 19298 | Effect of MDMA and matched sound therapy on Tinnitus- A proof of principle study. | Prof Dirk De Ridder | Alice/ Barry |
| 1:30 - 2:00pm | Lunch (30 mins) |  |  |  |
| 2:00 - 2:30pm | 2023 FULL 19149 | Does maternal posture for a 'back-to-back' baby reduce operative births? | Dr Jennifer Barrowclough | Kate/Leesa |
| 2:30 - 3:00pm | 2023 FULL 19150 | ELVN-001-104: A Study to Investigate the Safety, Tolerability, and Food-Effect of ELVN-001 in Healthy Participants | Dr Laura Elliott | Maakere/Amber |
| 3:00- 3:30pm | 2023 FULL 19192 | BCX10013-107: A Study Evaluating the Relative Bioavailability of BCX10013 Tablets vs. Capsule Formulations | Dr Alexandra Cole | Ewe Leong/ Barry |

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| **Member Name** | **Member Category** | **Appointed** | **Term Expires** | **Apologies?** |
| Ms Kate O’Connor | Lay (Ethical/Moral reasoning) (Chair) | 13/08/2021 | 16/08/2024 | Present |
| Mrs Leesa Russell | Non-Lay (Intervention/Observational Studies) | 13/08/2021 | 16/08/2024 | Present |
| Mr Barry Taylor | Non-Lay (Intervention/Observational Studies) | 13/08/2021 | 16/08/2024 | Present |
| Ms Alice McCarthy | Lay (the Law) | 22/12/2021 | 22/12/2024 | Present |
| Ms Joan Pettit | Non-Lay (Intervention Studies) | 08/07/2022 | 08/07/2025 | Apologies |
| Dr Amber Parry-Strong | Non-Lay (Health/Disability service provision) | 08/07/2022 | 08/07/2025 | Present |
| Mr Ewe Leong Lim | Lay (Consumer/Community perspectives) | 08/07/2022 | 08/07/2025 | Present |
| Ms Maakere Marr | Lay (Consumer/Community perspectives) | 08/07/2022 | 08/07/2025 | Present |

## Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with karakia at 11am and welcomed Committee members, noting that apologies had been received from Joan Pettit

The Chair noted that the meeting was quorate.

The Committee noted and agreed the agenda for the meeting.

## Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th December 2023 were confirmed.

## New applications

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| **1** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 18925** |
|  | Title: | Clinical Safety and Efficacy of the VDyne Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Replacement System for the Treatment of Tricuspid Regurgitation |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Sanjeevan Pasupati |
|  | Sponsor: | Mobius Medical Pty Ltd |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd November 2023 |

Ms Liz Low, Dr Sanjeevan Pasupati and other members of the research team were present via videoconference for discussion of this application.

Potential conflicts of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to this application.

No potential conflicts of interest related to this application were declared by any member.

Summary of resolved ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and addressed by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee clarified that the peer reviewer was a clinician from Tauranga Hospital and not a member of the same organisation as the PI. The researcher noted that this field is incredibly niche and that there could be a lot of bias inherent in asking another person in this field to review the study.
2. The Committee clarified that the tricuspid valve device would be the only procedure undertaken as part of this study.
3. The Committee clarified the training that the surgeon has had (or will be receiving) with the device.
4. The Committee clarified the alternatives to participation and that many candidates for participation in this study are being included due to extremely high risk associated with other surgeries.

Summary of outstanding ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and which require addressing by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee requested that peer review be conducted by someone who has hands on experience in this field. This could be someone in this field even in the case where it may not be truly independent as there is a need for expertise to comment on the scientific validity in this case.
2. The Committee requested provision of the investigator brochure for the study device.
3. The Committee queried how the consent process would be conducted for the study and how this differs from Standard of care. Please clarify this in the protocol as well.
4. The Committee noted that the insurance amount was lacking given the risk of the surgery, the novelty of the procedure, and the level of unwellness.

The Committee requested the following changes to the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form (PIS/CF):

1. Please make it clear that should something go wrong with device placement; the primary solution is to get them off the table alive rather than do further alternative surgeries.
2. Please clarify in the black box warning at the front of the PISCF that there is a risk of death as part of this study.
3. Please review to ensure that the severity of the procedure is expressed fully and that the informed consent balances the risk properly against Standard of Care alternatives
4. Please separate the risks of standard of care from the risks of study participation. This could be done in a table noting the difference in risk between the two potential components.
5. Please note that on page 7 where there is reference to “compassionate use cases above”, the cases are referenced below. Please amend.
6. Please note that informing a general practitioner should be mandatory. Please amend all reference to this being optional.
7. Please distinguish the difference between malposition and migration for participants.
8. Please remove mention of the Medicines New Zealand Guidelines from the compensation section
9. Please clearly define what tests are standard of care and which are study related procedures.
10. Please state that the valve is permanent and cannot be removed.
11. Please note that commercial reasons cannot be the sole reason for a sponsor to terminate a trial.
12. Please remove the panel in the consent form for the signing by a legally authorised representative as this is not permitted in New Zealand.
13. Please include a section in the PISCF for the consenting and information around the explanting of tissue and valve should the participant die.
14. Please tabulate or find a briefer way to describe the procedures involved in the study.
15. Please be clear around the 13 participants who have had the procedure rather than the 5 mentioned. This may create a sense of suspicion or anxiety as to the safety of the procedure. Otherwise, state why they are not included.

**Decision**

This application was *provisionally approved* by consensus, subject to the following information being received:

1. Please address all outstanding ethical issues, providing the information requested by the Committee.
2. Please update the participant information sheet and consent form, taking into account feedback provided by the Committee. *(National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 7.15 – 7.17).*
3. Please update the study protocol, taking into account the feedback provided by the Committee. (National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 9.7).
4. Please supply an independent peer review for the current version of the study protocol. (National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 9.26).
5. Please provide more detail in study documentation to ensure participant safety if there are potential concerns with their well-being raised as part of this study (National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 8.4-8.6, 8.9)

After receipt of the information requested by the Committee, a final decision on the application will be made by Ms Kate O’Connor and Mr Barry Taylor.

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| **2** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 18627** |
|  | Title: | 03.18 I-MAT: Immunotherapy Merkel Adjuvant Trial: A randomised, placebo-controlled, phase II trial of adjuvant Avelumab in patients with stage I-III Merkel cell carcinoma |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Gareth Rivalland |
|  | Sponsor: | Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Ltd |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd November 2023 |

The research team was present via videoconference for discussion of this application.

Potential conflicts of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to this application.

No potential conflicts of interest related to this application were declared by any member.

Summary of resolved ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and addressed by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee clarified that the trial covered and reimbursed parking and travel.
2. The Committee queried the equipoise of one arm of a trial being on placebo infusions for so long. The researcher noted that whilst this is a long period, it is necessary to test the effect of the treatment for this indication and that the people on placebo would have more regular scanning and reviews with an oncologist and that this may be adequate to answer some of this inequity.
3. The Committee confirmed that the funding and drug provided by Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD) but that there would be no access by MSD to the data collected by this study. The Committee was satisfied that this adequately showed the study was investigator initiated and was therefore within the purview of the ACC for compensation.
4. The Committee clarified that the inability to receive live vaccines would not impact the vaccination schedules of most people in the study.
5. The Committee clarified that should screening occur and a consent is signed then the sponsor is obligated to include those participants in the trial, except in the case where that participant may fail screening.

Summary of outstanding ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and which require addressing by the Researcher are as follows.

The Committee requested the following changes to the main Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form (PIS/CF):

1. Please include the reimbursement of parking and travel for participants information.

The Committee requested the following changes to the Future Unspecified Use Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form (PIS/CF):

1. Please amend the formatting to reduce density and improve readability.
2. Please only refer to HDECs rather than HRECs.
3. Please explain all the acronyms before using them and consider simplifying where possible.

**Decision**

This application was *approved* by consensus, subject to the following non-standard conditions:

* please address all outstanding ethical issues raised by the Committee
* please update the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form, taking into account the feedback provided by the Committee. *(National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 7.15 – 7.17).*

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| **3** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 19250** |
|  | Title: | 023 Efficacy &safety of GSK’s investigational RSV vaccine in lung & renal transplant recipients (≥18 years) comparing 1 or 2 doses & compared to healthy adults (≥50 years of age) receiving 1 dose |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Nine Smuts |
|  | Sponsor: | GSK New Zealand |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd November 2023 |

Dr Richard Stubbs and Dr Nine Smuts was present via videoconference for discussion of this application.

Potential conflicts of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to this application.

No potential conflicts of interest related to this application were declared by any member.

Summary of resolved ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and addressed by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee clarified how dangerous RSV could be for these potential participants who are recipients of renal transplants. The Committee clarified that the lung transplant recipient potential participants may not be included in the study should there be issues with recruitment but that the team and sponsor were prepared to take these participants on.

Summary of outstanding ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and which require addressing by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee queried the inclusion of the branding in the recruitment material. If this material is not being used, please do not upload it for review, or include it in patient facing material.
2. The Committee requested that a certificate of medical indemnity be uploaded once this has been received.
3. The Committee noted that the insurance for the study runs out in 2024 and that a new one will need to be uploaded before then as the study runs through to 2025.

The Committee requested the following changes to the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form (PIS/CF):

1. Please amend the title “Which vaccine will I get.” Everyone is receiving the vaccine so this should specify that there is only one vaccine but the doses will be different.
2. Please include a reimbursement amount for the participants once decided upon.
3. Please remove the witness section from the consent form as this is not necessary. Only should there be a need for interpretation would this need to be included.
4. Please include full contraceptive information as per the [HDEC PIS Template](https://ethics.health.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/HDEC/templates/participant-information-sheet-consent-form-template-v5.0april2023.doc) or the protocol. This should be written for them to consider and refer to in the future.
5. Please remove references to teaspoons where mentioning measurements of human tissues. Please use millilitres instead.

**Decision**

This application was *approved* by consensus, subject to the following non-standard conditions:

* please address all outstanding ethical issues raised by the Committee
* please update the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form, taking into account the feedback provided by the Committee. *(National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 7.15 – 7.17).*

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| **4** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 19298** |
|  | Title: | Effect of MDMA and matched sound therapy on Tinnitus- A proof of principle study. |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Professor Dirk De Ridder |
|  | Sponsor: | University of Otago |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd November 2023 |

Professor Bruce Russell, Professor Paul Glue, Professor Dirk De Ridder and Ms Divya Adhia were present via videoconference for discussion of this application.

Potential conflicts of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to this application.

No potential conflicts of interest related to this application were declared by any member.

Summary of resolved ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and addressed by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Researcher clarified that the use of MDMA in PTSD was grounds for the use in Tinnitus as those who suffer with this condition associate anxiety and depression with the sound of their Tinnitus. The researcher also clarified the dosing and the mimicking of this from the PTSD studies.
2. The Committee clarified that there was significant work going into screening out individuals who may be drug seeking. The research is so focused on those who are genuinely suffering and screening will be capable of excluding people looking for an recreational type experience. The Committee noted that recreating the sound makes it incredibly difficult to fake the condition.
3. The Committee clarified that the off-label use of the control was standardised and the same as other MDMA studies conducted by the same research group.
4. The Committee suggested reading the European medical agency scientific guideline draft guideline clinical investigation medicinal products treatment depression revision 3 as this document addresses psychedelics in clinical trials. The Committee noted that this document raises concerns with the brevity of follow up and safety of participants.
5. The Committee queried longer term risks or impacts on the brain or mental health as all risks listed are immediate health risks. The researcher noted that the highest risk participants would be those impacted by bipolar disorder. There are no clear long-term risks for people only receiving three doses as supported by research in this field.

Summary of outstanding ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and which require addressing by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee requested that the word “treatment” be removed from all advertising materials.
2. The Committee requested a more protocolised safety follow-up which spans the half-life of the study intervention. The Committee requested more safety checks, even if this is only temperature and blood pressure checks. The Committee also requested that there be a medical sign off required prior to the participants being able to leave the study site.

**Decision**

This application was *provisionally approved* by consensus, subject to the following information being received:

1. Please address all outstanding ethical issues, providing the information requested by the Committee.
2. Please update the participant information sheet and consent form, taking into account feedback provided by the Committee. *(National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 7.15 – 7.17).*
3. Please update the study protocol, taking into account the feedback provided by the Committee. (National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 9.7).

After receipt of the information requested by the Committee, a final decision on the application will be made by Ms Alice McCarthy and Mr Barry Taylor.

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| **5** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 19149** |
|  | Title: | Does maternal posture for a 'back-to-back' baby reduce operative births? |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Jennifer Barrowclough |
|  | Sponsor: | Auckland University of Technology |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd November 2023 |

Dr Jennifer Barrowclough was present via videoconference for discussion of this application.

Potential conflicts of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to this application.

No potential conflicts of interest related to this application were declared by any member.

Summary of resolved ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and addressed by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee clarified that the recruitment would be initiated by the LMCs who will provide a brochure to potential participants. The researcher also noted that the position of the foetus would be taken into account when recruiting.
2. The Committee clarified that the screening ultrasound would be additional as part of the study as an additional measure of accuracy for the foetal position.
3. The Committee clarified that the intervention would be postural change to aim to reduce operative birth.
4. The Committee clarified that the participant may not need to be in this position for the whole time to reduce the pain or discomfort potentially caused by this.
5. The Committee clarified that there would be data collection of neonatal outcomes.
6. The Committee clarified that there would be a paper version of the PISCF made available if necessary.

Summary of outstanding ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and which require addressing by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee queried the use of the birth partner to collect data. This would need to be consented. The Committee raised that this may include the pain scores and that for this pilot it may be best to just have the midwife do this scoring. Please amend the protocol to this effect.
2. The Committee queried the appropriateness of competitive consenting as is detailed in the HDEC application. The Committee noted that a “prize draw” is not a good way of showing appreciation given everyone’s time and effort into the study.
3. The Committee noted that there needs to be a second panel in the consent form that deals with consenting for the collection of data pertaining to neonates to be signed after birth as consent cannot be given to collect data on a non-person. This consent can be given by the birth partner if necessary.

The Committee requested the following changes to the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form (PIS/CF):

1. Please state that people using a birthing pool may not be able to participate in the study.
2. Please add an acknowledgement of people’s birthing plans and the limited ways in which participation could impact this.
3. Please be clear in the brochure as to which arm is usual care versus intervention.
4. Please clarify that the midwife will be taking the measures for the study in the brochure.
5. Please remove the question marks at the end of each exclusion criteria.
6. Please clarify if the midwife will be prompting the participants to remind the participants to be in the position they have been randomised to.
7. Please specify in the consent statement that withdrawal will not impact the participants medical care or birthing plan.

**Decision**

This application was *provisionally approved* by consensus, subject to the following information being received:

1. Please address all outstanding ethical issues, providing the information requested by the Committee.
2. Please update the participant information sheet and consent form, taking into account feedback provided by the Committee. *(National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 7.15 – 7.17).*
3. Please update the study protocol, taking into account the feedback provided by the Committee. (National Ethical Standards for Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement, para 9.7).

After receipt of the information requested by the Committee, a final decision on the application will be made by Ms Kate O’Connor and Mrs Leesa Russell.

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| **6** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 19150** |
|  | Title: | ELVN-001-104: A Study to Investigate the Safety, Tolerability, and Food-Effect of ELVN-001 in Healthy Participants |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Laura Elliott |
|  | Sponsor: | Novotech (New Zealand) Pty Ltd |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd November 2023 |

Miss Holly Thirwall, Dr Laura Elliott, Ms Julia O’Sullivan, Mr Rohit Katail and Miss Kayla Malate were present via videoconference for discussion of this application.

Potential conflicts of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to this application.

No potential conflicts of interest related to this application were declared by any member.

Summary of resolved ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and addressed by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee clarified that the long-in-patient stays were popular amongst the recruitment pool.
2. The Committee noted that the new IB would be provided in January 2024. Any changes to the study safety language needed would come through the amendment pathway.
3. The Committee noted that the new MPS certificate had been provided to the Committee but there was a small delay in getting it to the Committee.

Summary of outstanding ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and which require addressing by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee noted a few typo’s in the advertising stating “Aotearoas” as there is no letter ‘s’ in Te Reo.

**Decision**

This application was *approved* by consensus, subject to the following non-standard conditions:

* please address all outstanding ethical issues raised by the Committee

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| **7** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 19192** |
|  | Title: | BCX10013-107: A Study Evaluating the Relative Bioavailability of BCX10013 Tablets vs. Capsule Formulations |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Alexandra Cole |
|  | Sponsor: | Novotech (New Zealand) Limited |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd November 2023 |

Dr Alexandra Cole, Miss Holly Thirwall, Ms Julia O’Sullivan and Miss Kayla Malate were present via videoconference for discussion of this application.

Potential conflicts of interest

The Chair asked members to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to this application.

No potential conflicts of interest related to this application were declared by any member.

Summary of resolved ethical issues

The main ethical issues considered by the Committee and addressed by the Researcher are as follows.

1. The Committee clarified that the last study with this intervention was in capsule form. The researcher clarified that the tablet study was likely for convenience and the only difference is the intervention delivery form. The capsule was a gelatine or vegetable based GMP-certified material.

**Decision**

This application was *approved* by consensus.

## General business

1. The Chair reminded the Committee of the date and time of its next scheduled meeting:

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| **Meeting date:** | 7th February 2024 |
| **Zoom details:** | To be determined |

1. **Review of Last Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair and Co-ordinator as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising**
2. **Other business**
3. **Other business for information**
4. **Any other business**

The meeting closed with a karakia at 2:40pm.