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| **Committee:** | Northern B Health and Disability Ethics Committee |
| **Meeting date:** | 07 March 2023 |
| **Zoom details:** | 965 0758 9841 |

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| **Time** | **Review Reference** | **Project Title** | **Coordinating Investigator** | **Assigned Lead Reviewers** |
| 11.30am-12.00pm | 2023 FULL 15237 | 6740-CL-101: A Study to Evaluate Single and Multiple Doses of TLC-6740 in Healthy Participants | Prof. Edward Gane | Ms Kate O’Connor & Mrs Leesa Russell |
| 12.00pm-12.30pm | 2023 FULL 15225 | 21-0200-101: A Phase 1b Multi-Center, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation, Prime and Boost Vaccination Evaluation of Two Chimpanzee Adenoviral Vectors in Adult Participants With Chronic HBV Infection | Prof. Edward Gane | Mr Ewe Long & Ms Joan Petit |
| 12:30pm-1:00pm | 2023 FULL 13556 | DUET-UC - Efficacy and Safety of Combination Therapy with Guselkumab and Golimumab in Participants with Moderately to Severely Active Ulcerative Colitis | Dr Di Jiang | Ms Makaare Marr & Mr Barry Taylor |
| 1:00pm-1:30pm | 2023 FULL 15359 | Application of artificial intelligence in defecating proctogram interpretation | Dr Chris Varghese | Ms Kate O'Connor & Dr Amber Parry-Strong |
| 1:30pm-2:00pm |  | Break 30 minutes |  |  |
| 2:00pm-2:30pm | 2023 FULL 15429 | Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder- Assessing Criteria and Their Modification in Clinical Practice | Dr Fraser Burling | Ms Kate O'Connor & Ms Joan Pettit |
| 2.30pm- 3.00pm | 2023 FULL 14001 | Long-Term Open-Label Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Vatiquinone in Patients with Friedreich Ataxia | Professor Richard Roxburgh | Ms Maakere Marr & Mrs Leesa Russell |

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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 | Apologies |
| Ms Joan Pettit | Non-Lay (Intervention Studies) | 08/07/2022 | 08/07/2025 | Present |
| 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 at 11:00am and welcomed Committee members, noting that apologies had been received from Ms Alice McCarthy

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 February 2023 were confirmed.

## New applications

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| **1** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 15237** |
|  | Title: | A Phase 1 Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacodynamics of Single and Multiple Ascending Doses of TLC-6740 in Healthy Subjects |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Professor Edward Gane |
|  | Sponsor: | OrsoBio, Inc |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd February 2023 |

Professor Edward Gane, Holly Thirlwall and Julia O’Sullivan 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 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 that the question related to covid vaccination may need to be removed from the registration/ pre-screening forms if it is not relevant to the study.
2. The Committee noted that there was no current Māori consultation taken into account in the study. The Researcher noted that there will be Māori consultation and agreed that as a New Zealand-only study there should absolutely be input from Māori.
3. The Committee observed that the advertising marketing options included statements that over-promised future benefit, and these should not be used.

**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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| **2** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 15225** |
|  | Title: | A Phase 1b Multi-Center, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation, Prime and Boost Vaccination Evaluation of Two Chimpanzee Adenoviral  Vectors in Adult Participants With Chronic HBV Infection Who Are Currently Receiving HBV Nucleos(t)ide Reverse Transcriptase  Inhibitors |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Professor Edward Gane |
|  | Sponsor: | Novotech New Zealand |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd February 2023 |

Professor Edward Gane 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 the process for recruitment and the avoidance of participants feeling pressured by clinic staff where there is crossover between clinic and study staff. These staff would all have sufficient information to be able to respond to potential participants’ questions on the chimpanzee vectors and other matters.

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 clarified that there would be no effect on the ability of someone to be vaccinated as part of this study if already vaccinated against HBV. This should be included in the participant information sheet.
2. The Committee requested that the insurance be amended to list New Zealand as a territory.
3. The Committee requested that any future unspecified research on tissue/samples be removed from the main consent and be in a separate form to be consented separately.

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

1. Please clarify the 3 vaccine component agents under study: the two vectors and the study product they will transport. Explain the risks associated with each combination. Use consistent terms throughout the sheet for clarity and, if possible, use diagrams of the different arms of the study.
2. Please remove yes/no options where the statement is mandatory.

**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).*

After receipt of the information requested by the Committee, a final decision on the application will be made by Ms Joan Petit and Mr Ewe Leong Lim.

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| **3** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 13556** |
|  | Title: | A Phase 2b Randomized, Double-blind, Active- and Placebo-controlled, Parallel-group, Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Induction and Maintenance Combination Therapy with Guselkumab and Golimumab in Participants with Moderately to Severely Active Ulcerative Colitis |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Di Jiang |
|  | Sponsor: | Janssen-Cilag |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd February 2023 |

Dr Caroline Jiang, Dr April Aguilar 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 this study was to investigate a treatment to a high number of participants who have no response to other forms of biologic therapies.
2. The Committee clarified that the placebo participants would be placed in a different medication group at 24 weeks, but this would be blinded. The Committee also clarified the unblinding process and placebo response process.
3. The Committee clarified that there would be no disadvantage to other patients due to the use of the public endoscopic assessments. There would also be no more or less visits for endoscopies or biopsies for participants than in standard of care (SoC).
4. The Committee clarified that the endoscopy videos would not be returned to participants. This process is not SoC and is for research purposes only.
5. The Committee queried if there was data to back up the claims that Māori had an increased incidence of ulcerative colitis. The researcher responded that there was non-longitudinal data that was currently planned for further research.
6. The Committee clarified that the number of visits was in line with SoC and therefore a koha for time would not be necessary.
7. The Committee clarified that the study drugs were not yet being used in combination (or as monotherapy) in New Zealand currently.

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 updated insurance policy be provided as this has currently expired.
2. The Committee requested that someone who is not the treating clinician be the person to talk the participants through the information sheets and consent forms to manage conflict of interest.

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

1. Please remove "The injury was caused by placebo used in the study" as an exclusion in the compo section: if its per protocol, it should be covered.
2. Please change font or headings to be white font on blue backgrounds.
3. Please ensure that under the compensation for injury section that injury from placebo is removed as not receiving compensation as if the placebo is administered as part of the protocol this should be covered by compensation.

**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 Mr Barry Taylor and Ms Maakere Marr.

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| **4** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 15359** |
|  | Title: | Application of artificial intelligence in defecating proctogram interpretation |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Chris Varghese |
|  | Sponsor: | The University of Auckland |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd February 2023 |

No one from 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 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 that this study is through the university and will need to be officially sponsored by them and the documentation necessary to this needs to be provided.
2. Given that the study seeks to utilise the data from hospitals, the hospitals would need to be the locality for the application and locality approval would be given by the hospital for this and not a collaborator (as is currently the case). Māori consultation would also need to be done through the hospital. *National Ethical Standards* para *3.3 & 9.1-9.31*
3. The Committee noted that the data management plan (DMP) was not adequate and that this must include how images and reports will be accessed and how these will be linked and deidentified. This is required for justification of waiver of consent which currently is not sufficient. *National Ethical Standards* para *7.20-7.21, 12.1-12.13 & 12.26-12.39*
4. The Committee requested the researcher consult with Māori to ensure necessary aspects of the Māori culture has been considered. *National Ethical Standards* para *3.3*
5. The Committee suggested referring to the NEAC standards specifically on the requirements for protocol, AI and waiver of consent. *National Ethical Standards* chapters 9, 13 and 7
6. The Committee requested more detail in the DMP on the power of the sample size selected. *National Ethical Standards* para *9.7*
7. The Committee suggested utilizing the [HDEC DMP template.](https://ethics.health.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/HDEC/templates/HDEC-data-only-management-template-Nov2022.docx)
8. The Committee observed that any potential commercial applications for the final AI product or its Intellectual Property have not been disclosed.

**Decision**

This application was *declined* by consensus, as the Committee did not consider that the study would meet the ethical standards referenced above.

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| **5** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 15429** |
|  | Title: | Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder- Assessing Criteria and Their Modification in Clinical Practice |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Dr Fraser Burling |
|  | Sponsor: | The Ehlers-Danlos Society |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd February 2023 |

Bethann Pillow Edwards and Dr Alan Hakim 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 where the participants were regarding their diagnoses at the time of recruitment.
2. The Committee noted that no children would be participating in this study as this would be a separate study in Australia only.
3. The Committee clarified that the current criteria for diagnosis was not as granular as the approach taken in this study. The Researcher noted that this study intends to simplify the process by which people with these conditions are diagnosed.
4. The Researchers noted that they clarified with their Māori consultant that the study doctor was the most appropriate person to be the cultural contact.

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 how the timing of approach and consenting would be handled and requested further detail on this be added to the protocol. Please address that any perceived undue influence arising from the dual role of doctor/ researcher.
2. The Committee noted that the initial invitation to join the study should include assurances that participating in the trial will not impact their treatment. The Committee requested that study documentation be sent along with the confirmation of the initial appointment with the participants.
3. The Committee requested that the participant be given adequate time to go through and complete the surveys.
4. The Committee requested a safety plan and timelines for response to survey questions where there may be some indication of mental distress or suicidality. These need to be specifically addressed in the Protocol and participant information sheet.

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

1. Please include information as to the survey and the period given to be completed in.
2. Please specify how charges will be impacted if at all by clinic visits due to the study. Please state this clearly so participants do not think they will be paying more by participating.
3. Please clarify the process around obtaining genetic testing and the request for results, noting that some participants will have these, and some will not
4. Please express clearly that the study requires collection of more personal information than is typical for a standard clinical evaluation. Please be clear that this will take more time and also explain how the research data will be used versus the standard clinical data.
5. Please review for lay language.
6. Please note that notification of general practitioners of participation or abnormal findings should be mandatory. Please remove the option for this.
7. Please remove information from the template that is not relevant to this application.
8. Please identify who the sponsor of the study is in the introduction.
9. Please include that the clinic is receiving money from the sponsor for clinic participation in the study.
10. Please amend mention to Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) to be Ethics Committees as IRBs are an American terminology and do not exist in New Zealand.

**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 Ms Joan Petit.

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| **6** | **Ethics ref:** | **2023 FULL 14001** |
|  | Title: | Long-Term Open-Label Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Vatiquinone in Patients with Friedreich Ataxia |
|  | Principal Investigator: | Professor Richard Roxburgh |
|  | Sponsor: | PTC Therapeutics, Inc. |
|  | Clock Start Date: | 23rd February 2023 |

Professor Richard Roxburgh and Kay Yeoman 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 participant remaining from the last study would be rolling onto this study and that this person is not Māori.
2. The Researchers informed the study team that one of the people intended for the trial would not be participating in this further study.
3. The Committee clarified that recruitment in the parent study is closed.
4. The Committee clarified how the drug’s efficacy may be determined over time. The Committee also clarified that if the drug works that there would be no real end to the open-label extension.
5. The Committee clarified that the travel vendor was used on occasion, and that they also occasionally use their own funds as they wish for attending clinics.
6. The Committee clarified that there likely will not be a request for assisted dying during this study.
7. The Committee discussed if the Investigator Brochure was the latest version, and if any updates to the Reference Safety Information were needed.

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 provision of the updated Medical Indemnity certificate for Professor Richard Roxburgh.

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

1. Please specify that suicidality may result in a breach of confidentiality for the sake of transparency.
2. Please consider including a risk for the impacts of a high fat diet.

**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).*

After receipt of the information requested by the Committee, a final decision on the application will be made by Mrs Leesa Russell and Ms Maakere Marr.

## General business

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

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| **Meeting date:** | 4th April 2023 |
| **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 at 3:45pm