

COVID-19 Lessons Learned: Clinical Evaluation of Therapeutics

September 28, 2021 1-5:30pm Eastern

This project is supported by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award of \$41,665 in federal funds (100% of the project). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by FDA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit FDA.gov.





Welcome

Susan C. Winckler, RPh, Esq. Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA





Thank you for joining

This workshop is being recorded. A transcript will be available on regulations.gov.

If you'd like to ask a question, you may enter it in the Q&A. We will get to as many questions as time allows.

If you signed up to provide a public comment during registration, you will have a minute-and-a-half to provide your statement during that portion of the workshop. We will call speakers to the microphone alphabetically by last name and will unmute you when it is your turn to speak.

Speakers and presenters cannot address questions regarding any pending regulatory action.

Agenda



1pm	Welcome and Introduction
1:15pm	Opening Keynotes
	Janet Woodcock, MD U.S. Food and Drug Administration
	Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD National Institutes of Health
1:45pm	Research, Scoping, & Prioritization Panel
2:45pm	Infrastructure & Resourcing Panel
3:45pm	Clinical Trial Execution Panel
4:45pm	Public Comment*
5:15pm	Closing Plenary

*Open to those who registered in advance. This is an open public comment forum; neither the Foundation nor FDA will respond.





Introduction

Kevin Bugin, PhD

U.S. Food and Drug Administration & former Federal COVID-19 Response or Countermeasures Acceleration Groups



Welcome and Thank You



- Why did we conduct lessons learned for therapeutics?
- Timing
- Purpose of workshop
- Goals

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Panel discussions

- Research, Scoping, & Prioritization
- Infrastructure & Resourcing
- Clinical Trial Execution



- Today is another step in our journey. It is not the end goal.
- There will be a meeting recording posted. The slides are currently available at <u>ReaganUdall.org</u>
- There will be a summary that builds on the pre-read, incorporating today's discussion and public comments
- The docket will remain open (ID:FDA-2021-N-0977), please submit comments and ideas, and we'll be summarizing that public feedback once it closes
- We hope that our panel members, participants, and our leaders across the clinical trial ecosystem will carry forward the lessons learned today and put them in place to ready us for the future of this pandemic and future pandemics response





Janet Woodcock, MD

Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs U.S. Food and Drug Administration



Federal COVID-19 Response: Clinical Evaluation of Therapeutics Lessons Learned Public Workshop

Opening Remarks

• September 28, 2021



Operation Warp Speed Therapeutics

- In May 2020, the Operation Warp Speed (OWS) therapeutics effort was established with the following mission:
- Accelerate clinical development and manufacturing scale-up of candidates most likely to have a broad public impact
- Enable **broad distribution and availability of Tx** until wide-spread access to a vaccine(s) could be achieved
- Provide continued access for those infected with COVID-19

The OWS therapeutic strategy focused on candidates that **attack the virus or prevent/manage complications** associated with COVID-19

In January 2021, OWS was transitioned to the Federal COVID-19 Response





The Therapeutics (Tx) effort facilitated broad interagency coordination to enable accelerated Tx development and availability





Context for this Lessons Learned Initiative

- The coordinated Federal Response for COVID-19 therapeutics produced tremendous insights related to the clinical evaluation of therapeutics
- These insights can be applied to the broader clinical trial landscape and improve the clinical trial ecosystem's preparedness for the next public health emergency
- While there continues to be a public health emergency, there was a need to focus on the clinical evaluation of therapeutics early in 2021 to explore immediate application of lessons and initiation of longer-term efforts
- Analysis and collection of lessons learned took place from January to May of 2021



Over the course of the first half of 2021, we captured lessons learned, developed recommendations, and considerations for implementation

Compiled a comprehensive 70+ page fact-base based on interviews with stakeholders and lessons learned documentation with key context, lessons learned, and sources

Synthesized **29 key** recommendations based on lessons learned. Process was led by working groups and aligned with leadership Developed considerations to address recommendations to provide **details and reference for implementation process.** Meant as starting points for discussion.

	Lessons Learned: Fact-base		draft fo
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1	Strategy, Governance & Decision-making	3	
1.1	Strategy & governance across USG & CT landscape	3	
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1.5	Roles & responsibilities across stakeholders	8	7 to
1.6	SMEs, industry advisors across workstreams	9	9 10 1
1.7	PM with accelerated timelines	10	
1.8	Strategic communications and stakeholder engagement	11	
2	Research, Scoping & Prioritization	12	
2.1	Research for Tx across stages of the disease	12	
2.2	Ser agant coloction ID prioritization & funding	14	

29 recommendatio	ns h	ave been devel	op	oed across the 4 t	op	bic areas
Strategy, Governance & Decision-making ¹		Research, Scoping & Prioritization of Tx		Infrastructure & Resourcing		Clinical Trial Execution
Establish coordinating governing body, with:	Sh	Share enabling information Support CT ³ system in creating actionable evidence Enable open sharing of research strategy and plans Enable sharing research data and results	0	Keep CT networks and infrastructure "warm" for		Mitigate regulatory impediments
Centralized functions (PMO ² , communications)	Cre Cre		8	future PHEs Build and support community-based networks Enable decentralized / hybrid trials and remote monitoring		Develop tools to enable site readiness & participation
Frameworks for critical processes	resea () Enab		0			Ensure framework for priority questions matches site capabilities
Tools to enforce strategy Enhance international coordination	an		0	tools post-PHE Share best practices on managing patient enrollment	0	Develop report on driving culture change in trial participation
Centralize contracting capabilities			0	Increase trial participation from under-represented communities	0	Improve technology support, capacity and motivations

_	Recommendation	Considerations to Address Recommendation	Potential Key Stakeholders
0	Identify and leverage existing CT networks infrastructure (incl. NIH- funded networks, nonprofit. Ridustry/CRO sites networks) and public-private partnerships (e.g. ACTIV) to maintain a "warm base" for PHEs and that can be deployed against high priority needs	 Mariani, espand (e.g. notakis other governmeet-funded health systems like Vk, Do, CHCS, FOHGS, & utilize NIH's Clinical Traid Oganch Inventory Evisuate governmet-funder antevisyophernships builduitized for COVID 19, assess strength-liveatinesses/ gops Parallel evisuationssessment of non-government-funder and commercial networks Createlenforce norms of ransparency (e.g. re: protocols, enrollment, endpoints, etc.) across networks/billiss to minimize overlag, esp. n.PHE Develop a plan for retting and funding research "challenges") 	Implementation Stateholder: Tx Governing Body Steady-state Stateholder: NIH Key Stateholders to enage: USI (NIH & Others), industry/CROs, academic centers, funders, NCATS



Working groups were formed around key topic areas with oversight from a USG leadership group



*Reach out to Kevin Bugin (PM for initiative) with any further questions: Kevin.Bugin@fda.hhs.gov

www.fda.gov

Lessons Learned were identified across five topic areas, with four being within scope of this initial effort and discussion today





Many of the Tx lessons learned discussed today can be found in the recently shared President's Pandemic Preparedness Plan (Sept. 2021)

- Strength the U.S. Public Health System
 - Invest in public health labs and digital infrastructure
 - Prioritize vulnerable communities
 - Support evidence-based communication
- Improve Regulatory Capacity
 - Platform technologies
 - Clinical trial networks
 - Improved regulatory capacity and approaches at FDA
- Enhanced Program Management
 - Mission Control
 - International Coordination

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/American-Pandemic-Preparedness-Transforming-Our-Capabilities-Final-For-Web.pdf

www.fda.gov









Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD

Director National Institutes of Health

Virtual Public Workshop on COVID-19 Lessons Learned: Clinical Evaluation of Therapeutics Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. Director, National Institutes of Health September 28, 2021







American Pandemic Preparedness Plan

- I. Transforming Medical Defenses
 - Develop vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics
- II. Ensuring Situational Awareness
 - Improve real-time monitoring, early warning/predictors and tracking of variants
- III. Strengthening Public Health Systems
 - Invest in digital infrastructure
 - Diversifying scientific workforce
 - Prioritize vulnerable communities and support community engagement
- IV. Building Core Capabilities
 - Improve regulatory approval and capacity for platform technologies and clinical trial networks
 - Secure biosafety and biosecurity measures
- V. Managing the Mission
 - Centralized program management and international coordination

White House unveils \$65B pandemic preparedness plan

BY JUSTINE COLEMAN - 09/03/21 03:00 PM EDT

THE HILL

American Pandemic Preparedness: Transforming Our Capabilities

September 2021

THE WHITE HOUSE



BRIEFING ROOM

On-the-Record Press Call by Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Dr. Eric Lander and NSC Director for Global Health Security and Biodefense Dr. Beth Cameron on American Pandemic Preparedness SEPTEMBER 03, 2021 - PRESS BRIEFINGS

NIH COVID-19 Initiatives:

Experience that can inform the American Pandemic Preparedness Plan

- Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) Public Private Partnership
- Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx)
- Tracking Resistance and Coronavirus Evolution (TRACE)
- Antiviral Program for Pandemics (APP)
- Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)



ACTIV Public-Private Partnership



LAUNCH

 On April 17, 2020, NIH announced the launch of a public-private partnership, Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV)

MISSION

- Develop a coordinated research response to speed COVID-19 treatment and vaccine options
 - Establish a collaborative framework for prioritizing therapeutic candidates and accelerating vaccine evaluation
 - Accelerate randomized clinical trials of promising agents and leverage existing clinical trial networks while maintaining rigorous safety standards
 - Coordinate regulatory processes and leverage assets among all partners

ACTIV Stakeholders



8 GOVERNMENT LEADERS









U.S. FOOD & DRUG



H-CORE (Formerly Operation Warp Speed)



4 NON-PROFIT





BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation



PROGRAM MANAGEMENT



ACTIV Focus Area Objectives & Composition

Each focus area is a Working Group that contains several subgroups to oversee tactical operations:



- Impact of Vaccines of Transmission
- Correlates of
 Protection

ACTIV Master Protocols: *COVID-19 Therapeutics Prioritized for Testing*

- ACTIV-1 Immune Modulators
 - Phase 3 inpatient trial: Cenicriviroc, Orencia® (abatacept), Remicade® (Infliximab)
- ACTIV-2 Monoclonal Antibodies and Other Therapies
 - Phase 2/3 outpatient trial: AZD7442 (IV)* (IM)*, Brii-196 & Brii-198, BMS-986414 and BMS-986413, LY-CoV-555, SAB-185, Camostat Mesylate, SNG001 IFN-beta
- ACTIV-3 Monoclonal Antibodies and Other Therapies
 - Phase 3 inpatient trial: AZD7442, Brii-196 & Brii-198, LY-CoV-555, Zyesami[™] (aviptadil acetate) and Veklury® (remdesivir), VIR-7831, Ensovibep (MP0420), Pfizer PF-07304814

ACTIV-4 Antithrombotics and Host Tissue Therapies

- Phase 3 outpatient trial: Eliquis® (apixaban), Aspirin
- Phase 3 inpatient trial: Un-fractionated (UF) Heparin, Low Molecular Weight (LMW) Heparin, Unfractionated Heparin and P2Y12 Inhibitors, TXA127, TRV027, APN01, Fostamatinib
- Phase 3 convalescent trial: Eliquis® (apixaban))
- ACTIV-5 Big Effect Trial
 - Phase 2 inpatient trial: Skyrisi[™] (risankizumab), Lenzilumab, Danicopan
- ACTIV-6 Repurposed Drugs
 - Phase 3 outpatient trial: Ivermectin, Fluvoxamine, Fluticasone

*Enrollment ceased at company's request Denotes agent lack of efficacy Denotes proven agent efficacy

Rigorous Testing is Essential:

Potentially Promising Therapeutics That Failed In Well-Powered Placebo-Controlled Randomized Trials

- Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ)
- Chloroquine (CQ)
- HCQ or CQ plus azithromycin
- Lopinavir/ritonavir (HIV drugs)
- Full dose heparin for ICU patients
- Many monoclonal antibodies for inpatients
- Hyperimmune globulin for inpatients

Different Therapies at Different Stages of COVID-19

COVID-19+ Disease Progression



Anti-viral Strategies

Immunomodulatory Strategies

Anti-coagulation Strategies

Antiviral Program for Pandemics (APP)

Accelerate development of a portfolio of safe and effective AVs that directly act against SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses of pandemic potential



Build a sustainable platform to discover new antivirals by:

- Establishing multi-investigator, and multidisciplinary discovery groups (AViDD Centers)
- Using structural and systems methods to identify potential drug targets shared across key viral pathogens
- Progressing promising candidates to INDenabling work

Accelerate clinical testing of promising antiviral candidates by:

- Supporting key non-clinical and early clinical studies
- Establishing public-private partnerships to supplement private sector capabilities (including facilitating third-party collaborations)
- De-risking candidates for further late-stage development

Coronaviruses: Selected Targets for Therapeutics



ACTIV Tracking Resistance And Coronavirus Evolution (TRACE)

TRACE workflow Monitor global emergence and circulation of SARS-CoV-2 mutations 2 Cross-reference against database of experimentally/clinically phenotyped mutants (3) Characterization in vitro through critical-path assays (4) Characterization in vivo through critical-path assays 5 Rapidly share data readouts with scientific community Feed data back into resistance database in (2)

TRACE Priorities



Publish weekly TRACE report summarizing shifting trends in emerging viral variants



Collect available industry and government agency data on variants in one place



Generate datasets using standardized protocols and common reference reagents



NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL)

- Community-engaged research and outreach focused on COVID-19 awareness and education to address misinformation and mistrust
- Promote and facilitate inclusion of diverse racial and ethnic populations in clinical trials
 - Prevention, vaccine, therapeutics, diagnostics
- CEAL research teams
 - More than 20 states (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, DC Metro Area, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, and Texas)

Conclusion

- Substantial and rapid progress has been made in prioritizing and testing therapeutics for various stages of COVID-19
- In a pandemic, well-intentioned but poorly designed and underpowered trials can do more harm than good. Academic medical centers must guard against this.
- Through ACTIV and NIH trials, multiple therapies have been proven beneficial; others have been demonstrated to have no value
- Repurposing existing drugs must always be the first approach, and can provide quick "singles" and "doubles", but generally not "home runs"
- Going forward, the highest priority for coronaviruses is to develop and test targeted antiviral drugs
- Those may need to be used in combination to avoid resistance
- Many lessons have been learned to prepare for future pandemics:
 - Partnerships, master protocols, coordinated trial networks, global reach...



NIT ■ Turning Discovery Into Health www.nih.gov/hope directorsblog.nih.gov









Research, Scoping, & Prioritization



Moderated by

Stacey Adam, PhD Foundation for the National Institutes of Health

Michael Santos, PhD Foundation for the National Institutes of Health

Panelists

Janet Woodcock, MD U.S. Food and Drug Administration

> Phyllis Arthur, MBA BIO

Elliott Levy, MD COVID R&D Consortium

Sarah Read, MD

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) Therapeutics-Clinical Work Group Co-Chair

Recommendations Research, Scoping, & Prioritization

Recommendation 1: Rapidly collect and disseminate enabling information such as pathogen ID, sequencing, and natural history data (through natural history registries).

Recommendation 2: Ensure the clinical trial (CT) ecosystem creates actionable evidence through developing strategy, guidelines, templates, incentives, and capacity building (e.g., prioritize randomized trials).

Recommendation 3: Enable the open sharing of research strategy and plans amongst stakeholders in the CT ecosystem to coordinate activities, including in funding announcements.

Recommendation 4: Establish efficient and effective systems for sharing early research data and results with other researchers outside of publication channels.

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Infrastructure & Resourcing



Moderated by

Esther Krofah FasterCures and Center for Public Health, Milken Institute

Kristin Schneeman *Director, FasterCures*

Panelists

Barbara Bierer, MD

Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard

Michael Kurilla, MD, PhD

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health

James Mayne, PhD

Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America

Doug Peddicord, PhD

Association of Clinical Research Organizations and Washington Health Strategies Group

Recommendations Infrastructure & Resourcing

Recommendation 1: Identify and leverage existing clinical trial network infrastructure (incl. NIH-funded networks, nonprofit & industry/CRO sites networks) and public-private partnerships (e.g., ACTIV) to maintain a 'warm base' for public health emergencies (PHEs) and that can be deployed against high priority unmet needs.

Recommendation 2: Build, engage, and support more community-based institutions/networks to improve the diversity and representativeness of clinical trials and ability to deploy pragmatic trials.

Recommendation 3: Remove post-pandemic barriers to expanded adoption of decentralized/hybrid trials and remote monitoring tools.

Recommendation 4: Research, develop, and share best practices on managing patient enrollment with a focus on prioritized trials/platforms while enabling co-enrollment.

Recommendation 5: Determine best practices for increasing participation in trials from under-represented communities and create action plans for improvement.

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Clinical Trial Execution



Moderated by

Mark McClellan, MD, PhD Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy

Sarah Sheehan, MPA Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy

Panelists

Samuel Brown, MD, MS Intermountain Medical Center and University of Utah

> Janice Chang TransCelerate BioPharma Inc.

Clark Files, MD Wake Forest School of Medicine

Monica Webb Hooper, PhD National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Kate Zenlea, MPH, CPH The Global Health Initiative at Henry Ford Health System

Recommendations

Clinical Trial Execution

Recommendation 1: Reform regulatory oversight to avoid impediments in trial conduct and review/ maintain effective public health emergency (PHE) regulatory flexibilities (incl. development of best practices for IRBs/cIRBs, indemnity, streamlining FDA collaboration across centers, fit-for-purpose HRP training).

Recommendation 2: Develop tools, best practices, and resources for timely and effective trial participation, including site readiness assessment tools.

Recommendation 3: Assure that regulatory and prioritization framework for priority questions and data requests will generate optimal and timely clinical site participation.

Recommendation 4: Develop a retrospective assessment report for federal agencies, funders, academic and industry partners on driving culture change in pandemic trial participation, informed by clinical and patient communities. Engage and leverage "early adopter" health systems and community providers to link effort to clinical trial culture change.

Recommendation 5: Improve technology support, capacity, and motivations: capabilities for automated clinical trial data collection via: EHR and EDC integration, automated lab data, tools for remote patient monitoring & data collection, electronic registries (for natural history and conversion to trials), and registry/trial payment incentives to encourage adoption.







Public Comment

Limited to one-and-a-half minutes per speaker

This is an open public comment forum; neither the Foundation nor FDA will respond to comments.

> Additional comments may be submitted through the public docket (Docket ID:FDA-2021-N-0977) at Regulations.gov.



Closing Plenary

Kevin Bugin, PhD

U.S. Food and Drug Administration & former Federal COVID-19 Response or Countermeasures Acceleration Groups

Takeaways from Opening Keynote

• Important to take time to take stock even when still in the pandemic—we've made substantial progress since April 2020

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- Initial clinical research efforts for therapeutics were "scattershot" which created barriers to generating actionable evidence early
- Remarkable collaboration was seen with ACTIV between NIH, FDA, HHS, CDC, academia and industry
- Extraordinary "all-of-government" collaboration in response to COVID-19 and this was carried forward to the collaborative Lessons Learned effort we discussed today
- President's American Pandemic Preparedness Plan lays out an ambitious plan for future pandemics

Takeaways Panel 1: Research, Scoping, & Prioritization

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- In a public health emergency, there is a strong desire to help patients everyone jumps in and tries to help. A preparedness plan that communicates what can be done from Day 1 and when and how additional information and guidance will be disseminated will improve coordination and efficiency
- When determining criteria for scoping and prioritization, need to consider scientific considerations (e.g., mechanism of action, safety database) as well as scalability (e.g., availability of clinical supply, manufacturing)
- In addition to the immediate-term goals, keep the long-term pipeline and broader view in mind bridging the 'valley of death' is an important intermediate goal as well
- Must ensure trials are designed to yield actionable evidence
- Systematic communication channels to promote timely information-sharing is critical
- Need strong and continuous investment in pandemic preparedness, including infrastructure at the community-level and therapeutic areas such as antiviral R&D

Takeaways Panel 2: Infrastructure & Resourcing



- There are networks and infrastructure, but it exists in different states of readiness, and interoperability or rapid coordination that new or larger networks necessitate was difficult in realtime – Key question: how do we keep the needed infrastructure "warm and ready"?
- The underlying infrastructure and resources circumstances were changing.
 - Shifts in more remote/decentralized trial practices, and digital health tools, while needed, were a struggle to implement for new sites in particular
 - Basic need issues, such as PPE and clinical research professionals limited
 - Emerging variants, standard of care evolution, etc.
- Collaboration with and across industry and with regulators, key enabler of the flexibility and progress that was needed during the evolution of clinical trials during the PHE
- We did not have the infrastructure to effectively reach out to underserved / underrepresented patients. We need to engage with more community sites and bring them into the networks.
 Identifying and addressing their needs may be the answer to the key question

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- Importance of right-sizing the research question and appropriately matching that up to the capacity at sites from the get-go (including getting capacity at new sites/networks up to a new normal)
 - This requires engagement of community trial sites going forward
 - Beginning with the social determinants of health in mind (i.e., access to high quality healthcare)
 - Keep in mind eligibility criteria and its impact on diversity
- Clinical research needs to be as simplified, standardized, and supported as much as possible (include thinking internationally)
 - Regulatory requirements (central, sIRBs), administrative (informed consent), and legal indemnification should be clearer
 - Address the overhead (payrolls and risk management)
 - Contracting and other agreements
 - Investigational drug/pharmacy management

Takeaways Panel 3: Clinical Trial Execution cont'd

• "What do clinicians and healthcare providers do: Do they treat? Or do they respect, treat and learn?"

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- Training the next generation is an opportunity to accelerate culture change for the next gen of clinical care providers and clinical researchers
- Integrating novel tools and technology into the clinical care (needs to be widely available)
- Culture change is needed. We need:
 - True stories that demonstrate a real value proposition for communities
 - Adjustments to broader systems, frameworks, and incentives to enable research in clinical care
 - Relationships that reinforce changes over time





- Again, today is another step in a journey and not intended to be the end of this conversation
- We hope that our panel members, participants, and our leaders across the clinical trial ecosystem will carry forward the lessons learned today and put them in place to ready us for the future of this pandemic and future pandemics response

Reminders:

- There will be a meeting recording and the slides (updated) will be available at ReaganUdall.org
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