

## Harmonization Working Group

### Group Contacts & Summaries

January 2020

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## AGO-AUST (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Gynaekologische Onkologie Austria)

### Background

**Group Structure:** The AGO-Austria was founded in 1991 as a subgroup of the Austrian Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It was the devoted aim of this group of Austrian gynecologic oncology specialists to discuss urgent questions of research and treatment of gynaecologic cancers.

The AGO- study group was founded in 2002 with the coordinating office located at the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Medical University Innsbruck. The executive board consists of 10 Austrian gynaecological oncology specialists who meet on a regular basis.

Advisory board meets every second month to discuss progress of ongoing trials, to present ideas for new trials and to consider participation in international trials.

**Legal entity:** Legal body is the Medical University of Innsbruck. Whereas the AGO Studienzentrale is a project of the Medical University of Innsbruck.

**Membership criteria:** Centers who wish to participate are being discussed in the regular meetings. However, participation is open to all interested physicians.

**Funding:** There is no general or public funding for the AGO-Austria. We fund our trials depending on the protocol and trial, through public grants or industry.

**Coordinating/data centre:** AGO-Studienzentrale is the coordinating trial center

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** New concepts developed by group members and new protocols from external sponsors are reviewed by individuals who have been designated for a specific indication. These designees give a summary and feed-back on the proposed trial to be discussed by the Advisory Board. Then a recommendation is made regarding the scientific validity of the study and the potential for the group to participate.

**Protocol development:** Executive board, advisory board, central office team; procedures according to SOPs

For local studies: the individual who puts forward the concept is involved in protocol design. Trial statistician and central office team is appointed to assist in development and control trial design and analysis plan.

A protocol template is provided with (mandatory) sections.

Eligibility Criteria -- gynecological malignancies

Informed Consent -- The informed consent needs to be approved by the Coordinating Ethical Committee and will be revised according to the comments from each local EC.

Toxicity Criteria -- Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE) of the National Cancer Institute, version 4.03 (older protocols 3.0)

Amendments/Revisions: Amendments need to be approved by the Coordinating EC and each local EC.

Companions -- depending on protocol

Quality of Life – PRO, QoL, QLQ depending on protocol

Economics -- depending on protocol

Translational Research – is encouraged, depending on protocol

Pharmacokinetics -- is encouraged, depending on protocol

**Protocol approval:** The advisory board finalizes concepts and presents these to the executive board for approval. After approval participating centers are selected and submission to ethics committee by the coordinating group follows.

Protocol numbers are assigned as AGO-XX with consecutive numbers.

The executive board makes final decisions on trial design and makes final protocol revisions.

## Data management systems

**General:** Standards adapted to trial specific needs

**CRF and database development:** General – statistician is being involved.

**QA Review:** finalization after discussion with team and CRA

**Computerization:** All sites are computerized and have the ability to use electronic CRFs. Electronic databases are being used. Electronic procedures for patient registration and/or randomization are in use.

**eCRF usage:** eCRFs used for newer trials, older trials still paper CRF

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Randomization techniques – trial specific randomization/registration at the group coordinating center through on-lines systems at site (depending on trial) via fax/phone/electronic.

## Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** Depending on type of trial, lead ethical committees can give approval for all of Austria (trials according to AMG) with single ECs only to be notified. For other trials approvals have to be gained by the ECs of all the centers involved. Approval process last in general 4-8 weeks after submission.

**Regulatory approval:**

National: BASG/AGES Ministry of Health. Approval 35 days after complete submission (if w/o objections by the Ministry Local: institutional ethics committee, local hospital approval, local university approval

**Adverse event reporting:** When acting as sponsor in a trial the lead administration office will inform principal investigator, co- investigators, medical company, ethic committees and other legal authorities after SAE was reported to the lead office by any participating centre.

## Study activity

**Start up: Local Activation:** essential documents check: protocol approvals, investigator agreements/commitments, CVs, ethics approval, local health authorities, delegation of duties, list of signatures, participating departments, pharmacy, etc.

Centers interested in participating in the study will sign a commitment form and a contract of duties and responsibilities.

**CRFs:** design in cooperation with statistician and CRO.

**Center ID's:** Each participating Centre is assigned a specific Centre Code, which remains the same across all AGO protocols.

**Patient ID's:** Design depending on the protocol. – Usually only numeric, in order to allow for data safety.

**SC:** involved in all trial related activities according to agreement before start: ISF, Trial Master Files, etc. The lead administration office manages IRB approvals, regulatory requirements, insurance, funding, and other administrative duties.

For some trials a CRO is contracted who is responsible for CRF supervision, management of queries, SAE management, regulatory requirements, and other administrative duties outlined per individual trial contract.

**Monitoring:** External monitoring – trial specific contracts with CRA. In some low-budget trials only in-house monitoring done by project manager

**Audit:** Sponsor audits; internal quality control visits (audits) through AGO for trials w/o monitoring

**Promotion and recruitment:**

Regular central and local scientific meetings; regular newsletter

Recruitment: Via Austrian centers of gynecological oncology

All participating centers are required to present center and trial specific results/activities at regular national scientific meeting. Regular attendance of national meetings are mandatory.

**Group Contacts**

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**Harmonization (Statistics):**

## AGO (Study Group of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Gynaekologische Onkologie)

### Background

**Group structure:** The AGO Study Group is a non-profit scientific association with the aim to enhance the treatment of gynecologic tumors in women. It developed from the AGO Ovarian Cancer Study Group (AGO-OVAR), which was founded in 1993.

There is the Executive Board, the Study Coordinating Group and the Central study office.

Cooperation with the Coordinating Centre for Clinical Trials of the University of Marburg-Giessen (KKS) regarding all statistic issues and quality assurance.

**Legal entity:** AGO Research GmbH is the legal entity that takes on the role of sponsor for trials conducted by the AGO Study Group.

**Membership criteria:** New sites interested in participating in AGO trials have to complete a questionnaire to give an overview on equipment, site staff, experience in conducting clinical trials, etc. If they fulfill all requirements they are invited to participate in an AGO trial. They receive an AGO Site ID as soon as they enroll the first patient into an AGO trial.

There is no fee for joining the AGO Study Group.

Recruitment of at least one patient per calendar year is expected.

**Funding:** There is no central funding to the AGO Study Group. Funding for individual trials is based on kind of the trial, e.g. pure academic trials, industry sponsored trials. A minority of trials is supported upon request of applications to German Cancer Aid or to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and donations.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The Coordinating Centre for all clinical trials is the central study office which is located in Wiesbaden, together with a satellite office located in Essen.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Any member of the Study Coordinating Group is entitled to present ideas for new protocols and to present a proposal to the Executive Board, who considers scientific merit and feasibility. If the proposal is accepted by this Board, it will be distributed to the Study Coordinating Group. In case of favorable opinion the Study Coordinating Group nominates the Coordinating Investigator and an AGO Study ID will be assigned.

Ovary: AGO-OVAR #

Cervix: AGO-ZX #

Endometrium: AGO-EN #

Gynecologic tumors: AGO-GYN #

Surgical trials: AGO-OVAR OP.#

Translational Research: AGO-TR #

QoL/PRO: AGO-PRO #

**Protocol development:** The protocol will be developed by the respective Coordinating Investigator, the central study office team, safety management team, quality management team and the statistician (+/- third partners) according to SOPs. Usage of checklist grants that all essential topics are included in the protocol.

**Protocol approval:** After protocol finalization submission to the Ethics Committee and Competent Regulatory Authority will be done.

### Data management systems

**General:** The AGO cooperates with the data management team of the KKS consisting of database developers, programmers and biostatisticians.

**CRF and database development:** CRFs are generated by using generic modules / common elements. CRFs are reviewed by clinicians, statistics and data management.

Database testing is carried out by the respective project manager including verification of available data plausibility programs. If eCRF is used site staff being involved in the trial usually receives access to a test database firstly.

**eCRF usage:** Since 2010 all IITs coordinated by the AGO use the Electronic Data Capture system by KKS.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Quality checks of the main inclusion/exclusion criteria before enrolment by the respective project manager and his/her substitute. Randomizations/Enrolment via central study office after release of the patient; depending on trial randomization via IVRS / IWRS possible (randomization technique: block randomization). Randomization result will be send to the site via fax.

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:** In Germany we divide in Central Ethics Committee and Local Ethics Committee.

The Central Ethics Committee is the EC of the German Coordinating Investigator and verifies the whole trial; exclusively taking of a decision.

Local Ethics Committees verify the qualification of the Investigators and the suitability of the local sites regarding the trial.

The Central Ethics Committee reviews and approves the Protocol, the Patient Information and Informed Consent Form, Modul 1 (Annex 1 of the ENTR/CT1 guideline), Modul 2 (Annex 2 of the ENTR/CT1 guideline), Insurance and Investigators Brochure or Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC). Favourable opinion is given for the whole trial duration, but can be withdrawn at any time.

Until 2013, any Investigators being involved in a clinical trial have to be approved by their local and central Ethics Committee before being authorized to work on study related procedures, especially obtaining informed consent, study related procedures regarding patients' safety. Since 2013 EC approval is only necessary for principle Investigator and his/her substitute.

**Regulatory approval:** German Competent Regulatory Authorities are the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute (PEI) or Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM). PEI/BfArM reviews and approves the Protocol, Modul 1 (Annex 1 of the ENTR/CT1 guideline), Insurance and Investigators Brochure or Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC).

Sites have to be notified to their respective regional administrative authority before the beginning of the trial.

Notification must be in place from Ethics-Committee AND from Competent Authority before a clinical trial site can be activated.

#### **Adverse event reporting:**

- SUSARs:
  - Expedited reporting of SUSARs occurring in the trial to the Central Ethics Committee, the Competent Regulatory Authority, all Investigators and to the authorities of involved EU member states (if applicable).
    - Fatal or life-threatening events: reporting within 7 days
    - Non-fatal and non-life-threatening events: reporting within 15 days
  - Shipment to Ethics and Authority by post; to sites by e-mail

- Once per year the Development Safety Update Report (DSUR), formerly known as Annual Safety Report (ASR) has to be sent to Central Ethics Committee and the Competent Regulatory Authority including benefit-risk evaluation of the sponsor.

## Study activity

### Start up:

Essential Documents:

- Suitability form of sites; feasibility check depending on trial
- Investigator agreement including consent of the administration department
- If applicable consent of radiology and/or pharmacy
- Financial Disclosure Statement
- Scientific CV including evidence of experience in conduction clinical trials and ICH-GCP knowledge
- Ethics approval
- Notification to the respective regional administrative authority
- Monitoring Training for all monitors being involved in the trial
- Site initiation visit (SIV) with the site personnel being involved in the trial; all participants have to sign the Startup Meeting log. After the SIV new trial staff has to be trained before carrying out trial related procedures; training has to be documented.
- Site initiation can also be done via telephone in individual trials.

**Monitoring:** Usually there is an onsite monitoring conducted by a preferred monitoring company (CRO). Intervals for monitoring visits are defined in the monitoring plan and depend on the accrual rate at the local site.

Tasks monitoring:

- Source data verification depending on monitoring plan
- Verify site's compliance with regulations/requirements
- Study drug accountability

A monitoring report will be send to the responsible project manager who reviews the report and initiates actions if necessary. In some low-budget trials there is only an in-house monitoring done by the responsible project manager.

**Audit:** Audits by sponsor. Inspections by regional authorities. Since 2013: Audits of AGO sites by QA department

## Promotion and recruitment

- Websites [www.ago-ovar.de](http://www.ago-ovar.de) & [www.ago-online.org](http://www.ago-online.org)
- Promotion at regional meetings
- Annual Investigator meeting
- Regular study updates to the Executive Board and the Study Coordinating Group (Study Leading Group meets 2 times a year; Executive Board 4 times a year)
- Weekly recruitment updates to Coordinating Investigator and data managers
- Trial specific newsletters

## Group Contacts

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## **AGOG - pending**

### **Background**

**Group structure:**

**Legal entity:**

**Membership criteria:**

**Funding**

**Coordinating/data centre:**

### **Study approval process**

**Concept development and approval:**

**Protocol development:**

### **Data management systems**

**General:**

**CRF and database development:**

**eCRF usage:**

**Randomisation and enrolment:**

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:**

**Regulatory approval:**

**Adverse event reporting:**

### **Study activity**

**Start up:**

**Monitoring:**

**Audit:**

### **Promotion and recruitment**

### **Group Contacts**

**Address:**

**Group Chair:**

**Harmonization (Operations):**

**Harmonization (Statistics): Website:**

## ANZGOG (Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group)

### Background

**Group structure:** ANZGOG was established in 2000 as a not-for-profit organization. In 2009 it became an incorporated company with an elected Board of Directors and a Board appointed Executive Director and admin staff. There are a Research Advisory Committee (RAC), Consumer and Community committee, Audit committee and Study Coordinators committee within ANZGOG. There is also an Operations Executive which comprises both ANZGOG and NHMRC CTC members.

**Legal entity:** ANZGOG is a legal entity but to date the University of Sydney is the legal entity that takes on the role of sponsor for clinical trials conducted by ANZGOG and coordinated by the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre.

**Membership criteria:** Membership is open to anyone with an interest in gynaecological cancer. Applications for membership are ratified by the Board, prior to acceptance. Applicants may apply to be Full, Community, Industry, Associate or Sustaining members.

**Funding:** Cancer cooperative groups in Australia receive limited infrastructure support from Federal and State based initiatives. Funding for individual trials may be from competitive grant applications, from per patient payments for Intergroup studies, or from industry.

**Coordinating centre:** The NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC) at the University of Sydney is the Coordinating Centre for all Phase III clinical trials. Some Phase II studies are coordinated at other hospital based data centres. The CTC provides expertise in protocol development, biostatistics, database development, and all aspects of study conduct, according to Standard Operating Procedures.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Concepts may be presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting, or to any RAC meeting, held quarterly by teleconference or face-to-face. A concept development checklist is provided. Concepts may be approved, recommended for further development, or rejected.

**Protocol development:** The CTC has a protocol template to assist with ensuring coverage of all essential elements including eligibility criteria, study endpoints, statistical considerations, schedule of assessments, toxicity criteria and publication planning.

**Protocol approval:** A final copy of a study protocol should be submitted for review by the Research Advisory Committee. Intergroup protocols (either GCIG, or with other ANZ cancer cooperative groups) can be submitted for consideration at any RAC meeting. Approval to proceed may be given based upon scientific quality and importance, demonstrated feasibility, adequate funding. Locally developed protocols are given an ANZGOG Study ID, Intergroup protocols are not. The Consumer and Community committee and the CTC Research and Operations Committees also review all protocols.

### Data management systems

**General:** The CTC has a data management team consisting of database developers and programmers. They work closely with the trials teams and biostatisticians.

**CRF and database development:** CRFs are developed from a library of generic template forms, and are reviewed by clinicians, statistics and data management. User Acceptance Testing is carried out by trials staff.

**eCRF usage:** All Phase III ANZGOG studies coordinated through the CTC use electronic Data Capture (EDC). Most studies with electronic data capture currently use "InForm" by Phase Forward.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Randomisations/registrations are carried out by site staff, using web-based systems. A fax based back-up system is in place in the event that there are problems with the web-based system.

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:** Individual states in Australia have implemented central ethical review to varying degrees, and there is a central system covering the 3 largest states but there is currently no completely national system in place. New Zealand has had Multi-centre Ethical review in place for a number of years.

Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) review and approve the protocol, Patient Information Sheet and consent form, investigator brochure or prescribing information and any material given to patients. Approval is usually given for 3-5 years with progress reports to be provided annually.

HRECs review safety data in accordance with the guidance of the NHMRC, Australian Research Council and Australian Vice-Chancellors committee and the ICH GCP guidelines, as adopted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

**Regulatory approval:** The TGA in Australia operates a Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) scheme for new drugs or devices or new indications for already registered drugs/devices. The CTN notification must be in place before a clinical trial site can be activated.

The regulatory body in New Zealand is Medsafe. Medsafe approval is required for a new medicine being used for the first time in New Zealand or for a new dose form or strength of an approved medicine.

**Adverse event reporting:** SUSARs occurring in Australia or New Zealand are reported to the relevant regulatory authority with 7 or 15 days for fatal or life threatening events and to local Ethics Committees according to institutional requirements. Reporting of all other adverse events is according to local institutional requirements and/or as specified in the protocol.

### **Study activity**

**Site selection and feasibility:** Site selection is based on response to feasibility assessment forms, recruitment to previous studies, previous site performance.

**Start up:** Essential documents as per Appendix. Once all pre-study requirements have been met, site training is either face to face, via webcast or teleconference.

**Monitoring:** Minimum of 2 visits/site/trial where funding allows, with additional for-cause visits. Central monitoring for compliance and data quality issues.

**Audit:** According to Audit plans of both ANZGOG and CTC audit committees

### **Promotion and recruitment**

(i) Annual Scientific Meeting, (ii) Group newsletters (quarterly), (iii) Monthly study updates to PI's and data managers and (iv) Trial Management Committee for each study oversees recruitment and other issues

### **Group Contacts**

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**Phone:** +61 2 9562 5000

**Group Chair:** Dr Alison Brand, email: Alison.Brand@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au

**Harmonization (Operations):** Dr Julie Martyn, email: julie.martyn@ctc.usyd.edu.au

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Prof Val Gebski, email: Val@ctc.usyd.edu.au

**Website:** [www.anzgog.org.au](http://www.anzgog.org.au)

## BGOG (Belgium and Luxembourg Gynecology Oncology Group)

### Background

The BGOG is a multidisciplinary non-profit organization with the aim to promote research in patients with gynaecological cancer in Belgium and Luxembourg.

As an academic group we perform pure academic clinical trials and also trials with the industry. Translational research is recommended in all our trials.

**Group structure:** There is a BGOG steering committee, which consists of 1 chairman and 9 members representing different hospitals spread throughout the country.

**Legal entity:** BGOG has non-profit status under Leuven RD. The University of Leuven is the legal responsible entity for BGOG.

**Membership criteria:** Centers are requested to provide proof of GCP training (certificate) and adherence prior to participation to one of our trials. Moreover, they are subjected to regular monitoring and auditing by either our industrial partner or BGOG staff.

**Funding:** There is no central funding to the BGOG Group. Funding for individual trials is based on the kind of the trial, e.g. pure academic trials, industry sponsored trials.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The Coordinating Centre for all clinical trials is the central administrative office which is located in Leuven.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Any member of the BGOG is entitled to present ideas for new protocols at the annual BGOG meeting or send a proposal to the steering committee. If the proposal is accepted at the annual meeting or steering committee meeting, the administrative office of BGOG will assist the coordinating investigator with the setup of the trial.

**Protocol development:** The protocol will be created by the respective Coordinating Investigator, the administrative office team and the statistician (+/- third partners)

**Protocol approval:** After protocol finalization submission to the Ethics Committee and Competent Regulatory Authority (if applicable) will be done. Clinical activities under the study will not start until all required regulatory approvals are in place.

### Data management systems

**General:** All investigator initiated trials coordinated by BGOG use Open Clinica for data management.

**CRF and database development:** e-CRF development is done by the administrative BGOG office for academic trials (with/without involvement of the Open Clinica eCRF design team).

**eCRF usage:** e-CRFs are used for all BGOG driven trials

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Enrollment and randomization is done by the administrative BGOG office or through a central IRT system (always used in case of randomized blinded studies)

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** In Belgium approval is given by the Central Ethics Committee after consultation with Local Ethics Committees.

The Central Ethics Committee is the EC of the Belgian Coordinating Investigator and verifies the whole trial.

Local Ethics Committees verify the qualification of the Investigators and the suitability of the local sites regarding the trial.

**Regulatory approval:** The Belgian Competent Regulatory Authorities approve the Protocol, the Investigators Brochure or Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), the labels and should be notified of all sites involved.

- **Adverse event reporting:**
- SUSARs:
  - Fatal or life-threatening events: reporting within 7 days
  - Non-fatal and non-life-threatening events: reporting within 15 days
- Once per year the Development Safety Update Report (DSUR), formerly known as Annual Safety Report (ASR) has to be sent to Central Ethics Committee and the Competent Regulatory Authority including benefit-risk evaluation of the sponsor.

**Start up:**

Essential Documents:

- Suitability form of sites; feasibility check depending on trial
- Investigator agreement
- Insurance
- Scientific CV including evidence of experience in conduction clinical trials and ICH-GCP knowledge
- Ethics approval
- Approval competent regulatory authorities (if applicable)
- Completed delegation log
- Site initiation visit (SIV) with the site personnel being involved in the trial. After the SIV new trial staff has to be trained before carrying out trial related procedures; training has to be documented.

**Monitoring:** onsite or remote monitoring

**Audit:** Audits by sponsor. Inspections by regional authorities.

### Promotion and recruitment

- All BGOG studies are discussed during the annual BGOG meeting
- Study specific newsletters
- Regular recruitment updates for participating centers

### Group Contacts:

**Address:** Herestraat 49 3000 Leuven

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- Joseph Kerger (Institut Jules Bordet - Brussels)
- Frédéric Kridelka (University of Liège - Liège)
- Frédéric Goffin (University of Liège - Liège)
- Hannelore Denys (University of Gent – Gent)
- Ignace Vergote (University Hospitals Leuven - Leuven)
- Els Van Nieuwenhuysen (University Hospitals Leuven – Leuven)
- Sileny Han (University Hospitals Leuven – Leuven)

-

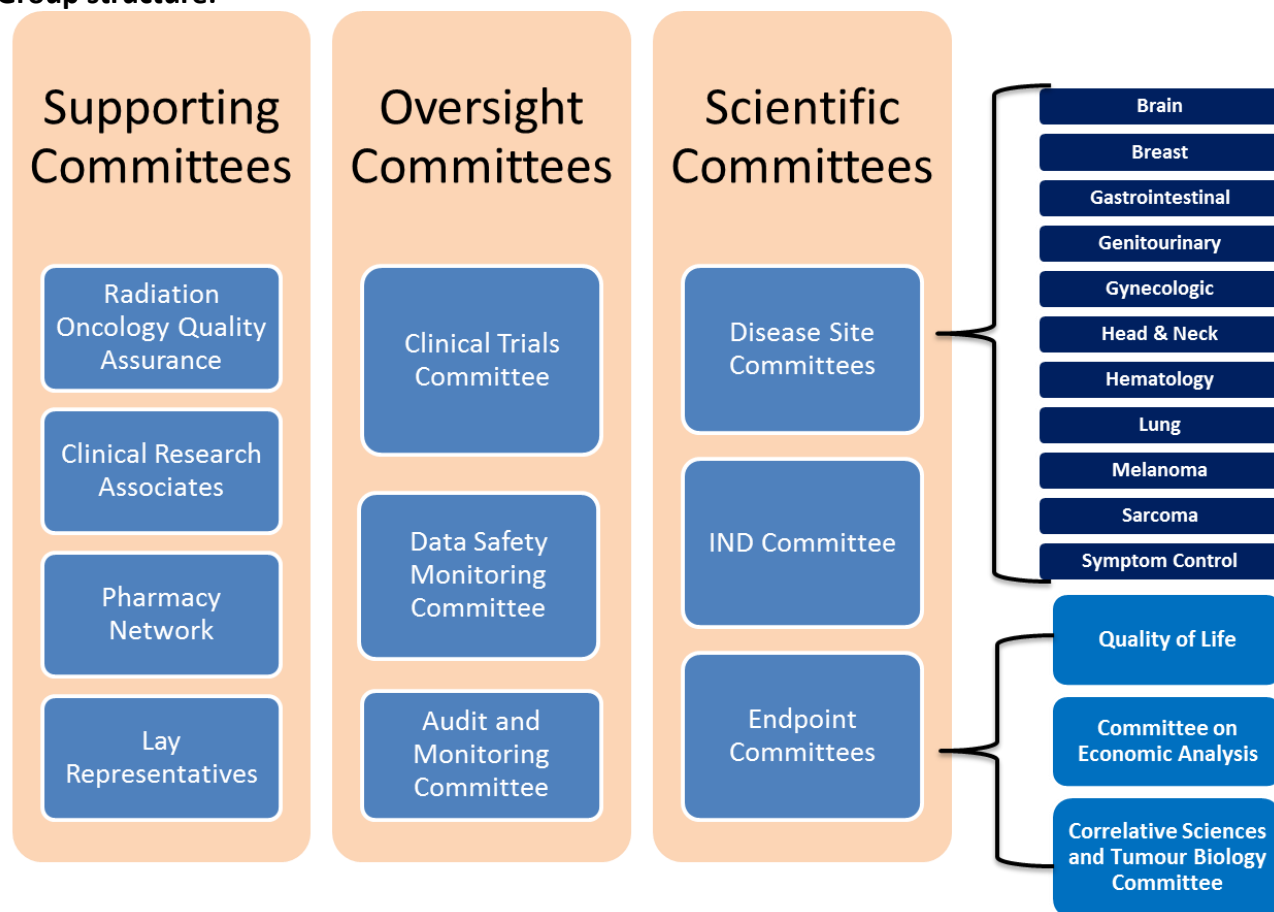
**Harmonization (operations):**

- Leen Hombrouck (BGOG – located at University Hospitals Leuven - Leuven)
- Joke De Roover (BGOG – located at University Hospitals Leuven - Leuven)

## CCTG (Canadian Cancer Trials Group)

### Background

#### Group structure:



**Legal entity:** Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

**Membership criteria:** General Requirements for CCTG Member Centres:

All institutions in Canada providing care to cancer patients are potentially eligible to be ongoing member centres of the CCTG.

The basic requirements for centre membership in the Clinical Trials Group are as follows:

- an investigator with appropriate credentials willing to take responsibility for CCTG trials management and liaison (i.e. serve as Centre Representative)
- a demonstrated commitment to providing data management dedicated to CCTG trials;
- an indication that the level of patient accrual will be sufficient to ensure continuity of data management staff
- an established system for ethical review of protocols (or written policy that confirms local acceptance of second party institution review, e.g. from an affiliated university)
- access to laboratory and radiological/nuclear medicine facilities for trial investigations to be carried out.

Additional requirements are in place for the conduct of phase I and II trials

**Funding:** Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, National Cancer Institute US (NCI US), Industry, Other Granting Agencies

**Coordinating/data centre:** Canadian Cancer Trials Group, Queen's University, 10 Stuart Street, Kingston, ON, Canada K7L 3N6

## Study approval process

### Concept development and approval:

- Ideas for new clinical trials may be developed by central office faculty, investigators, other cooperative groups or pharmaceutical companies.
- The appropriate disease site committee and disease site executive assesses whether a proposed concept is high priority and is feasible in terms of centre interest.
- If the concept is sanctioned, a trial development team is formed.
- The trial development team, with input from other investigators, and Central Office staff if required, will draft the protocol synopsis.
- The Clinical Trials Committee (for phase III, non-US cooperative group studies only) will review and rank the trial using the draft protocol synopsis.
- Central Office then reviews the synopsis and considers aspects of budget, drug supply, central office resources and timelines.

**Protocol development:** CCTG protocols have a standard format and table of contents compatible with ICH-GCP requirements and are developed using the Central Office Data Executive (CODE) approved CCTG generic protocol. A sample trial consent form is also created. This document addresses all consent form elements required by ICH-GCP and applicable regulations and can be used as a template for participating cooperative groups.

Scientific sections will include: the objectives and rationale for the study; methodologic chapters such as design, evaluation criteria, statistical design and analysis and role of the data safety monitoring committee; medical chapters, including inclusion and exclusion criteria, response criteria, detailed description of the protocol therapy, and all clinical, radiological and laboratory investigations to be performed; and the rationale and evaluation methods for special outcome measures requiring particular expertise (e.g. correlative studies, quality of life, economic evaluation, nursing research).

The administrative/operational sections of the protocol will detail all practical, ethical and regulatory procedures to be followed (e.g. authorization to participate, obtaining informed consent, registration/randomization process, data collection, drug distribution procedures, adverse event criteria and procedure for reporting serious adverse events, modality quality control, ethical considerations and administrative responsibilities, flow of data, publication policy, study contacts).

Study participants will be managed and data collected in compliance with the protocol that has received prior approval/favourable opinion of the relevant regulatory authorities and institutional review boards. Changes in practice may only occur after appropriate approval.

If participating cooperative groups are identified at the very early stages of protocol development, then certain aspects of their group's participation logistics may be incorporated directly into the main protocol. Those groups that join after the protocol has been finalized may opt to include their administrative logistics in an appendix.

A participating institution may not make any institution-specific changes to an CCTG protocol.

**Protocol approval:** Internal and external reviews of the protocol will be conducted in parallel.

#### Internal Review:

Protocols, trial sample consent form(s), and Canadian appendices are reviewed by the CCTG's Audit and Monitoring Group (AMG), Ethics and Regulatory Group (ERG) as well as for special outcome measures and Investigational Medicinal Product (IMP), when applicable.

#### External Review



Phase III protocols will be reviewed by industry if applicable. These protocols plus IND protocols will also be reviewed by the clinical research associate (CRA) and pharmacist representatives on the disease site (if appropriate).

For NCI US affiliated studies, appropriate NCI US (CTEP) procedures will be followed.

For trials that require a Clinical Trials Application to be filed require review by Health Canada.

Final sign-off on the protocol is done by the CCTG Senior Investigator.

### Data management systems

**General:** The pivotal principles of the CCTG data management process are:

- Standard operating procedures
- Work instructions and reference documents
- Standard templates for protocol development and data collection
- Use of standard dictionaries and validated instruments (e.g. Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, EORTC QLQ-C30)
- Continuing education and training
- Ongoing consistency and compliance review

**CRF and database development:** CCTG CRFs are cycle based, although some CRFs are 'rolling' and capture data from more than one cycle. Case report forms will be developed according to the Forms Development SOP, using approved templates, and must capture all data specified in the protocol. Significant variance from approved templates must be approved by CODE. The responsible senior biostatistician and senior investigator and team leader must review and approve the CRFs prior to finalization.

Final case report forms and guidelines for completion (generic ± trial specific) must be available to sites prior to enrolment of the first study participant. Paper CRFs are downloaded by sites.

**eCRF usage:** All CCTG trials use the Electronic Data Capture (EDC) system by Medidata Rave. This is a web-based system that does not require any software or systems to be installed at the participating site. SAE reporting for EDC trials is also done via the Medidata Rave system which automatically integrates the SAE information with the rest of the trial information.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Enrollments (randomization/registration) for CCTG led trials are done by the CCTG using a web-based, password protected electronic patient allocation system. The enrollment process includes standardized checks to ensure only credentialed sites and investigators are able to enter study subjects.

Enrollment of subjects includes a series of programmed checks to confirm eligibility/ ineligibility criteria and to permit only allowable values/dates for specified tests.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** The CCTG central office contains an Ethics and Regulatory Group and a Safety Desk. This group reviews all protocols and sample consent forms at the time of trial activation/trial modification and also collects and reviews the ethics documentation for our member centres according to GCP and the *Regulations* (as applicable). They process all safety updates and notices and provide periodic line listings of these events to our member centres.

**Regulatory approval:** A Clinical Trials Application (CTA) must be filed with Health Canada for any trial involving a new drug or when an existing drug is being used outside of the approved indication, dose or schedule. The regulatory office performs all of the CTA submissions to Health Canada for trials for which CCTG is sponsor.

**Adverse event reporting:** As trial sponsors in Canada, CCTG is responsible for notifying Health Canada any time a Canadian patient on a clinical trial suffers an adverse event that is deemed serious, unexpected and related. These designations are assigned initially by the responsible investigator and are confirmed by the CCTG Senior Investigator who oversees the trial.

### **Study activity**

**Start up:** CCTG education and training includes web based training for applicable regulations and guidelines (NIH, ICH-GCP, Health Canada) as well as trial and process specific training provided via trial specific web pages, CCTG Spring/Fall Meetings, and Investigator Meetings (where applicable). All member centres are subject to routine on-site audit and monitoring visits which include facility reviews. In addition, a central Centre Performance Index (CPI) is run biannually and assesses compliance of member centres routinely. Unless specifically required, site initiation or start up visits are not typically done.

**Centre Performance Index:** The Centre Performance Index (or CPI) is a means by which CCTG as sponsor of clinical trials can assess member centre performance via a centralized mechanism. The index is run biannually for all centres and more frequently (quarterly) for centres of concern. Quality assurance reports are also provided monthly to facilitate centre compliance. Currently the index includes: Eligibility Rate, Data Quality (Form submission timeliness), and Ethics Compliance (annual re-approvals, amendment approvals, and safety report submissions).

**Monitoring:** The CCTG Central Office contains a large Audit and Monitoring Group (AMG) that performs on site monitoring (OSM) for Canadian institutions. The OSM program has 3 main programs: On-site Monitoring Canada: Standard Monitoring Program (OSM-C), On-Site Monitoring International (OSM-I), and On-Site Monitoring Residual (OSM-R).

#### **On-Site Monitoring Canada: Standard Monitoring Program**

The OSM-C or standard program applies to the majority of CCTG trials. As part of this program, the Audit and Monitoring Group (AMG) will select centres for monitoring as part OSM-C standard monitoring program. The selection of centres and timing of the monitoring visits will be based on but is not limited to the following:

- New centres within 18 months of initial accrual
- Other centres a minimum once every 36 months
- Phase I/II IND centres and high accruing centres will be visited annually

Centres of concern as flagged by previous monitoring/auditing findings trial team following central monitoring, may be visited more frequently. In addition to centre and frequency requirements, trial complexity or risk are factored into review requirements at each centre. Aspects considered include but are not limited to enrolment, agents under CTA or US IND, safety issues, and trial complexity.

Further, if an unacceptable rating has been assigned in one or more categories of review, the next monitoring visit will be conducted within 12 months of the non-compliant visit. The follow up visit will be conducted either on site or by fax depending on nature of the issues noted.

During on site review patient, pharmacy, ethics, essential documents, and standard operating procedures are reviewed. A minimum of 10% of patient cases per trial per centre is selected for review depending on the criteria and/or issues noted. With respect to patient review, source data verification and protocol compliance assessment is conducted on informed consent, eligibility, baseline, treatment, follow up, SAE, and endpoint information for cases selected.

#### **On-site Monitoring International (OSM-I)**

The OSM-I or International program utilized similar principles as described for OSM-C but it applies to single study centres in the United States. These centres participate directly through CCTG. Where no other audit and monitoring oversight is in place, CCTG will conduct audit and monitoring.

#### **On-site Monitoring Residual (OSM-R)**

The OSM-R residual or intensive monitoring program is similar to an industry model where centres are visited every 6-8 weeks and up to 100% source data verification is completed. Separate contracts and budgets are in place for this type of monitoring. Generally this is performed for NDA trials.

**Audit:** The CCTG audit program includes on site audits of trials, vendors, and internal audits of CCTG trials and associated processes.

With respect to on site audits of trials, audits are conducted at participating centres for Phase III trials for which CCTG is the sponsor which includes trials which are monitored by a pharmaceutical company or contract research organization (CRO). Other trials (phase I or II trials, or trials for which CCTG is not the sponsor) may be selected for audit as part of a routine program or based on prior monitoring/auditing findings of concern. In general, audits are conducted at Canadian centres, but audits of international centres may also be conducted for selected trials.

**Centre Selection:** Once the trials to be audited are identified, AMG will select centres for audit. The selection of centres will be based on but not limited to the following:

- Centre enrolment, with emphasis toward high enrolling centres.
- Centre workload.
- Centres using a new investigator, new staff, or new systems.
- Co-coordinating investigator centres.
- Centres considered of concern based on central or prior monitoring/auditing.

#### **Promotion and recruitment**

CCTG led trials are registered with clinicaltrials.gov.

The Group works to facilitate trial promotion and recruitment directly with member sites, by sharing information via newsletters, conference calls and at an annual Meeting of Participants.

#### **Group Contacts**

**Address:** Canadian Cancer Trials Group, Queen's Cancer Research Institute, Queen's University, Kingston ON Canada, K7L 3N6, 613-533-6430 (phone), 613-533-2941 (fax)

**Group Chair:** Dr Elizabeth Eisenhauer (interim)

**Harmonization (Operations):** Ms. Andrea Hiltz (GCIG Harmonization-Ops representative)

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Dr. Dongsheng Tu

**Website:** [www.ctg.queensu.ca](http://www.ctg.queensu.ca)

## COGi (Cooperative Ovarian Cancer Group)

### Background

The Cooperative Ovarian Cancer Group (COGi) is a consortium of ovarian cancer researchers from 10 leading academic medical centers throughout the United States, including Stanford University, Harvard University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Washington. In addition, COGi has about 34 affiliate sites participating in COGi clinical trials. The group was formed in 2004 to expressly focus on the development of vaccines and innovative therapies for ovarian cancer. Laboratory programs in these areas have initiated and developed specific approaches that are being translated into clinical applications and trials.

To date, COGi research activities have discovered unique antigens in ovarian cancer that serve as targets for vaccine development and for new immunotherapeutic strategies. Phase I vaccine clinical trials started in 2010.

Partnering with industry, COGi researchers have conducted phase II and III protocols using monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of women with ovarian cancer.

**Group structure:** COGi is led by group principal investigator and prominent gynecologic oncologist, Dr. Jonathan Berek, Laurie Kraus Lacob Professor and Director, Stanford Women's Cancer Center, Stanford Cancer Institute, Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford University School of Medicine.

**Legal entity:**

**Membership criteria:**

**Funding:** COGi came into existence in 2004 through the support of the OCRF. Currently, cooperative clinical research programs have been undertaken with the support of several industry partners.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The central management of the consortium is performed by Stanford University personnel.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** New concepts developed by COGi investigators' and new protocols from industry partners are reviewed and discussed at the COGi annual meeting. Recommendations are made concerning the scientific validity of the study as well as the potential for group participation.

**Protocol development:**

**Protocol approval:**

### Data management systems

**General:** N/A

**CRF and database development:** N/A

**eCRF usage:** N/A

**Randomisation and enrolment:** N/A

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** N/A

**Regulatory approval:** N/A

**Adverse event reporting:** N/A

**Start up:** N/A

**Monitoring:** N/A

**Audit:** N/A

### **Promotion and recruitment**

Studies are promoted at the annual COGi meeting, via the COGi website, and through email.

Patients are recruited through affiliate sites participating in COGi clinical trials.

Studies are activated through grants, industry partners and COGi investigators.

### **Group Contacts**

**Address:** Stanford University, 300 Pasteur Drive, Room HH-333, Stanford, CA 94305

**Group Chair:** Jonathan S. Berek, MD, MMS

**Harmonization (Operations):** Ashley Powell

**Harmonization (Statistics):**

**Website:** <http://cogi.stanford.edu>

## Cancer Trials Ireland

### Background

**Group structure:** Cancer Trials Ireland (formerly ICORG) was set up in 1996 by a group of cancer consultants. The aim was to create more research opportunities for patients by putting a formal structure in place to make Ireland more attractive as a location to international cancer research groups and the pharmaceutical industry. Today it counts more than 98% of the Islands cancer treating consultants among its membership ensuring that research into cancer develops at a national level across all localities. Since its inception Cancer Trials Ireland (formerly ICORG) has opened 350 research protocols and this has allowed access to research treatments for more than 15,000 Irish cancer patients across 16 Irish centres. Cancer Trials Ireland currently has numerous studies open in the following Disease Areas: Breast, Lung, CNS, Gastrointestinal, Genitourinary, Gynaecology, Haematology/Lymphology, Head & Neck, Melanoma, Paediatric and Translational.

**Legal entity:** Cancer Trials Ireland, Charity No. CHY12492.

**Membership criteria:** Membership of Cancer Trials Ireland is open to oncology professionals in the fields of, medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology, haematological oncology and research specialists i.e. Research Nurse, Research Coordinator, Research Manager, Data Manager, Research Registrar, Research Pharmacists, Clinical Scientists, etc.

**Funding:** Cancer Trials Ireland is partly funded by the Irish Cancer Society and through a Health Research Board (HRB) grant.

**Coordinating/data centre:** Our Group Central Office (GCO) is based in Dublin and the team manages Cancer Trials Ireland's trials monitoring and business functions. The team has considerable expertise in clinical project management, pharmacovigilance, data management, on-site monitoring, quality management and training. The GCO team co-ordinates the activities of the Disease Specific Sub-Groups (DSSGs) through which the research portfolio is developed. GCO staff numbers approximately 50, comprising the CEO, Head of Operations and Clinical Programs, Translational Research Leader, Project Managers, Clinical Research Associates, Clinical Trial Administrators, Quality and Training Manager & Associates, Data Management Leader and Clinical Data Managers, Statistician, Pharmacovigilance Manager & Associate and support staff. GCO provides local expertise in regulatory and ethics processes in Ireland, the UK and Europe. It is Eudravigilance accredited by the EMEA, allowing direct access by GCO employees to the European safety database. GCO has experience in drug distribution, accountability and labelling, which has facilitated our work with industry and our collaboration with international partners. The GCO works closely with the Team Leaders, research nurses, data managers and investigators in the 16 Cancer Trials Research Units located in hospitals across the country.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** New concepts developed by group members and new protocols from external sponsors and cooperative groups are reviewed and discussed by the Disease Specific Sub Group (DSSG) (i.e. Investigator Meeting) and then a recommendation is made regarding the scientific validity of the study and the potential for the group to participate. An external peer review is required for in-house ICORG protocols. The scientific management group (SMG) and Cancer Trials Ireland Executive must review and approve studies approved by the DSSG(s) from a resource feasibility perspective and group priority before studies can be submitted to the ethics committees and competent authority.

**Protocol development:** A study concept can be submitted to the relevant DSSG by a Cancer Trials Ireland member. If approved by the DSSG the concept is assigned to a Chief Investigator (usually the investigator proposing the study concept). The Chief Investigator with the central office team, Statistician and Data manager, develop a full protocol document in accordance with Cancer Trials Ireland Protocol development SOP for re-review by the DSSG. An external peer review is required for in-house protocols. The scientific management group (SMG) and Executive must review and approve the protocol from a resource feasibility perspective and group priority before studies can be submitted to the ethics committees and competent authority.

A protocol concept should include the following mandatory sections:

- Protocol Title
- Chief Investigator/Interested Colleagues
- Rationale
- Patient Population/Key Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria
- Treatment of Interest (and comparator if relevant)
- End Points
- Study design
- Anticipated resources required from group and investigator sites
- Translational Aspect
- Collaborative Nature of the project
- External Peer Review
- Funding

#### **Data management systems**

**General:** Cancer Trials Ireland has a data management team consisting of database developers and programmers. They work closely with the trials teams and statistician.

**CRF and database development:** Reviewed by all the team (Chief Investigator, Project Manager, CRA, Statistician and Data Manager) and additionally by pharmaceutical company if they are a sponsor of the study

**eCRF usage:** Medidata Rave® eCRF is in development

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Randomisations/registrations are carried out by the Data Management team using a fax based system or web based system (study specific).

#### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:** Central Ethics Approval required.

**Regulatory approval:** National regulatory authority (the Health Products Regulatory Authority, HPRA) approval required.

**Adverse event reporting:** SAEs are to be reported by Investigators immediately by fax or eCRF. All SAEs are clinically reviewed. Pharmacovigilance department report all SUSARs, Line listings and DSURs to EC, Competent Authority, EudraVigilance and Investigators as applicable according to expedited reporting guideline.

#### **Study activity**

**Start up:** Following site initiation visit and receipt of required essential documents (Ethics approval, HPRA approval, local hospital approval, signed site specific assessment form, clinical indemnity scheme cover, protocol signature page, investigator's CV, signed contract, completed delegation log, proof of Investigator training and financial disclosures, if applicable sites are activated.

- Organisation of drug supply

- Every investigation centre has an ID number
- Patients will have a sequential number

**Monitoring:** Onsite monitoring is performed by the Group Central Office according to the rules specified in protocol and the study specific monitoring plan.

Study accrual is monitored at least three times a year at the DSSG meetings.

Review by a Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) if applicable

**Audit:** Conducted by the Quality & Training Department internally and also by external sponsors.

### Promotion and recruitment

All Cancer Trials Ireland trials are listed on the [www.cancertrials.ie](http://www.cancertrials.ie) website and [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) Newsletters are issued three times a year.

All new and active studies discussed minimum three times a year with all members at the Disease Specific Sub Group (DSSG) meetings.

### Group Contacts

**Address:** Innovation House, Old Finglas Road, Dublin 11, D11 KXN4, Ireland

**Group Chair:** Chair of the Gynaecological DSSG - Dr Dearbhaile O' Donnell, Consultant Medical Oncologist. Address: St James Hospital, James Street, Dublin 8, Ireland. Email: [dodonnell@stjames.ie](mailto:dodonnell@stjames.ie)

**Harmonization (Operations):** Anna Shevlin, Clinical Project Manager/Gastrointestinal & Gynaecological Operations Lead, Cancer Trials Ireland, Tel. +353 (0)1 6677211, Email [anna.shevlin@cancertrials.ie](mailto:anna.shevlin@cancertrials.ie)

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Imelda Parker, Group Statistician, Tel: +353 1 6677211, Email: [Imelda.Parker@cancertrials.ie](mailto:Imelda.Parker@cancertrials.ie)

**Website:** [www.cancertrials.ie](http://www.cancertrials.ie)





## DGOG (Dutch Gynecologic Oncology Group)

### Background

**Group structure:** The Dutch Gynaecological Oncology Group was established in 2010 and is a partnership of all specialties involved in treating women with gynaecological malignancies. The DGOG consists of a board and a council consisting of 3 advisory committees (medical oncology, radiotherapy-oncology and gynaecological oncology). A 4<sup>th</sup> committee (gynaecologic pathology) is currently being established.

**Legal entity:** The DGOG is a foundation and thus not for profit

**Membership criteria:** Membership is open to anybody involved in the treatment of women with gynaecological cancer.

**Funding:** Funding for trials can be obtained from a number of different sources, the main Dutch funding body being KWF Kanker Bestrijding (Dutch Cancer Society).

**Coordinating Centre:** The DGOG does not have a Clinical Trials Center as such, however the majority of datamanagement and trial coordination is coordinated at the IKNL. DGOG trials are under the legal responsibility and ethics evaluation at the hospital where the Principal Investigator is based, DGOG does not deal with contracts etc for trials. For each trial, specific funding for data management need to be secured (often delegated to IKNL). There are a number of additional data management offices which are approved by the Dutch Cancer Society.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Concepts may be submitted to the DGOG at any time, using the application form on the website. The board and council evaluate these applications on priority and feasibility. The council meets at least twice a year, but this can be more often on the initiative of the board. The board meets six times a year, either in person or via teleconference.

**Protocol development:** The DGOG has a protocol template to assist with ensuring coverage of all essential elements including eligibility criteria, study endpoints, statistical considerations, schedule of assessments, toxicity criteria and publication planning.

**Protocol approval:** When the protocol is approved and the trial will be performed within the DGOG, the trial will be submitted to the Ethics committee METC (the PI's regional METC) for central approval. The trial will start after formal approval of the METC and initiation within DGOG.

### Data management systems

**General:**

**CRF and database development:** CRFs are developed from a library of generic template forms, and are reviewed by clinicians, statistics and data management.

**eCRF usage:** All trials which are coordinated by the IKNL use Electronic Data Capture (EDC). Most trials with EDC currently use "TRIAS" developed by Ecommany and IKNL.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Randomisations/registrations are carried out by site staff, using web-based systems.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** A research protocol (including patient information leaflet, Informed consent and any other documentation that is applicable) has to be submitted to the Competent Authority (CA, this is the CCMO in The Netherlands) and the METC. The board of directors of the local hospital, which wants to participate in a trial, has to give approval for performing said trial in said hospital. Substantial

amendments to the protocol have to be submitted to the METC. Specific type of trials (eg with children or GMO products), specific central CCMO evaluation and approval needs to be obtained.

**Regulatory approval:** After central ethics approval and local feasibility approval, the board of directors of each participating hospital gives regulatory approval for participation.

**Adverse event reporting:** When an SAE occurs, the local investigator is responsible for reporting the event to the PI, within 24 hours of becoming aware of this event. In the case that a SUSAR results to death or is life-threatening, this will need to be reported within 7 days. Further relevant information will need to follow within another 8 days. All other SUSARs will need to be reported within 15 days. A safety report will be submitted to the METC, CCMO and the CBG (College ter beoordeling van geneesmiddelen) annually.

### Study activity

**Site selection and feasibility:** The sponsor or PI is required to select investigators and trial sites and review their qualification and the availability of appropriate resources. The site selection visit is used to check whether the investigator is adequately qualified and the site is suitable. At the same time the investigator is provided with all the information on the planned clinical trial relevant for the investigator's decision on whether or not to participate. If the investigator is still interested in participating in the clinical trial after review of the documentation supplied and after all questions have been answered, the sponsor or PI makes the final decision on the site's participation, based on the results of the site selection visit. Each site has to comply with GCP, each investigator has to pass a basic research course certification.

**Start up:** As per protocol. Once all pre-study requirements have been met, site training is face to face, but can also be combined during an Investigator meeting or Kick off meeting.

**Monitoring:** All DGOG trials will be monitored based on the NFU guidelines, where funding allows. (When applying for funding a budget specifically for monitoring can be requested.) These guidelines connect the extent of monitoring directly to the risk of damage to the subject. The lower the risk of damage to the subject the less frequent a trial has to be monitored. (with a minimum of 1 visit per year per site).

**Audit:** All DGOG sites are subject to regular audits by government and certification bodies, and/or independent internal research and quality audits. If a DGOG site can provide the results of a recent audit (conducted within the past 5 years) which has included a clinical research audit, the documentation of the results and action plan of this audit will suffice. In other cases the DGOG board will arrange for a site audit. The DGOG board will ensure that verification of the audit status of all DGOG centers will take place annually. An annual questionnaire will be sent out to update auditing status (including auditing of clinical research) and results and actions from the most recent audit. A log will be kept of trial participation, patient accrual status, and auditing status of each DGOG site. Only those centers that have not been subjected to an audit that also involved clinical research by a certified institution in the previous five years are considered eligible for auditing by DGOG board.

### Promotion and recruitment

Bi- annual Scientific Meeting, promotion via regular email messages and the website.

### Group Contacts

**Address:** DGOG secretary, a.m.westermann@amsterdamumc.nl

**Phone:**

**Group Chair:** Dr. Ruud Bekkers, email: r.bekkers@obgyn.umcn.nl

**Harmonization (Operations):** Dr. Karen Verhoeven-Adema, email: k.verhoeven@iknl.nl

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Pending, usually per trial a specific statistician at the PI's site is involved, but a specific DGOG advisory statistician will be sought.

**Website:** [www.dgog.nl](http://www.dgog.nl)

## EORTC (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer)

### Background

#### Group structure:

EORTC represents a network of more than 300 institutions from 29 different countries and about 2,000 collaborators (clinicians, pathologists, researchers ...). The **General Assembly** is the legislative body of the EORTC. Policies, proposals, and strategies are discussed and approved by the General Assembly. The General Assembly delegates specific functions to the Board, Committees, or appointed persons. The EORTC Network is organized into groups of scientists and/or clinicians, each with a specific area of interest in cancer research. These groups conduct translational research and/or clinical trials on all types of cancers using a multidisciplinary approach. The effective voting members of the General assembly are the President, the past three Presidents, each Group Chair, the Task Force Chairs, each of the Committee Chairs, and a representative from each of the top 15 accruing institutions. The General Assembly meets at least once a year and elects a new EORTC Board once every three years. The **Board** is the steering and executive body which advises the General Assembly on new activities and formulates proposals to be ratified by the General Assembly. The Board meets at least twice a year. The Board consists of 21 elected (voting) members and several *ex officio* members. The Board members select among themselves the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary General. The **Executive Committee** provides support to the President in the decision making and strategy planning process. The Executive Committee consists of several voting members of the Board plus the Director General and the Director who are *ex officio* (non-voting) members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets as often as needed (once every six weeks on average), and communicates via phone and e-mail on a weekly basis. The Executive Committee reports to the Board.

The **Director General** coordinates all administrative, legal and financial management activities of the organization; and implements the strategies and policies as defined by the Board. Additional responsibilities include EU projects coordination, information dissemination and logistic support for EORTC courses and conferences.

The **Director** is appointed by the Board and is in charge of daily management and scientific activities of EORTC Headquarters.

**Legal entity:** Yes, the EORTC is an international non-for-profit organisation under Belgian law. The registered office of the EORTC is 83 Av. E. Mounier, B-1200 Brussels, Belgium

#### Membership criteria:

##### Effective Membership

All members of the General Assembly are effective members of the EORTC. In addition, members of the EORTC Groups / Task Forces and EORTC Committees are associate members of the organization.

##### Associate Membership

Investigators who recruit patients into EORTC clinical trials and contribute to laboratory research conducted for these clinical studies or to other EORTC activities approved by the Board are admitted as associate members. They must be natural persons.

Applications of candidate associate members are submitted for assessment by the Membership Committee. They may be submitted by the candidate directly or by a Group Chair. The Membership Committee delivers its recommendation to the Board. A Group Chair may appeal to the General Assembly against the refusal of an application he or she had submitted.

Associate membership is granted for an initial probationary period ending immediately prior to the date of the third ordinary General Assembly held after the admission of the associate member. Associate

membership can then be renewed for successive periods of three years. The Board decides on the renewals at its last meeting before each ordinary General Assembly. A Group Chair may appeal to the General Assembly against the refusal to renew the associate membership of a member of his or her group.

The Board may withdraw the associate membership from members who no longer meet the admissibility criteria applied by the Board (a minimum of 15 patients recruited over the last three years across all EORTC Groups / Task Forces).

In some circumstances, other types of membership may be considered for scientists who bring a substantial contribution to the activities of a group without recruiting patients into clinical trials (basic scientists, pathologists, and radiologists, etc.). Foreign membership may be considered for 'temporary' affiliation of an institution with an EORTC Group in the context of a specific clinical trial provided that EORTC rules allowing foreign membership have been followed.

#### **Funding:**

The EORTC is funded through several sources including the EORTC Charitable Trust providing a core grant which is mainly supported by numerous national cancer leagues.

Since 1972, the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) has provided core support to EORTC Headquarters, and with this support a close scientific collaboration has been maintained to promote transatlantic research projects.

A core grant from the Fonds Cancer, FOCA (BE), provides support for the EORTC Headquarters staff. EORTC Headquarters receives annual grants allocated by BELSPO (the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office) and by the Belgian National Lottery.

Funding for the Fellowship Program is obtained from several sources including the Vlaamse Liga tegen Kanker, the Dutch Konigin Wilhelmina Fonds Kankerbestrijding, the Schroeder Foundation, the Melvin Seiden Foundation, and the Pfizer Foundation (within the framework of the PROBE Project). This funding program is coordinated by the EORTC Charitable Trust.

In addition to support from the EORTC, fellowships for medical doctors are also provided on ongoing basis by the Fonds Cancer / FOCA (Belgium), since 1991.

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the EORTC (March 2012), a fellowship has been allocated by Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) to evaluate new models of partnership between academia and industry. In addition, grants for EORTC research projects are received from the European Commission under the 6th and the 7th Framework Programme and the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI).

Clinical studies evaluating new drugs for potential registration or testing innovative therapeutic agents, including some educational projects, are conducted in cooperation with pharmaceutical industry partners. Pharmaceutical industry sponsorship is also provided in the form of 'unrestricted grants' for EORTC conferences.

The finances of the EORTC include all accounts from the EORTC Headquarters as well as all EORTC Groups and Task Forces. These accounts are consolidated as required under Belgian Law. The EORTC accounts are audited by Ernst & Young.

#### **Coordinating/data center:**

The EORTC is the only European organization that unites European cancer experts from all disciplines to establish international collaborations that facilitate, accelerate, conduct, and coordinate independent clinical and translational research on all types of cancer. Therefore the structure and functioning of EORTC Headquarters reflect the need to support its mission by providing expertise over a broad range of activities and research areas from strategic development to publication of research results.

Not only does EORTC Headquarters support the operational aspects of clinical research through protocol development, data and project management, regulatory affairs, and pharmacovigilance, but over the years EORTC Headquarters has become the essential partner of the EORTC Groups in implementing sound scientific strategy. This is achieved through expertise provided by the:

- Statistics Department;
- Medical Department;
- Translational Research, Radiotherapy, and Imaging Department.

Additionally, the Quality of Life Department develops and analyzes the quality of Life component of EORTC trials, the Early Project Optimization Department (EPOD) supports the development of the strategies for upcoming projects, and the fellowship program serves a unique role in supporting data optimization and utilization while also providing invaluable training to young oncologists.

There are also specific EORTC Headquarters units which support educational activities, contracts, legal and intergroups collaborations, as well as surveillance of quality assurance and control.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Any idea is first endorsed by EORTC executive committee (for strategy)

Thereafter the outline needs to be approved by protocol review committee- PRC - (scientific review, includes review by independent external experts). In parallel, feasibility needs to be confirmed (recruitment capacity, budget, resources etc...). This review is continuous (projects can be submitted any time) and lasts about 4 weeks – 8 weeks (depending of the nature of eventual comments).

EORTC has put in place a mutual recognition system with partners having similar systems in place to avoid duplication of independent external review. Protocols having already been reviewed by independent experts are simply checked by internal team which accelerates the process.

**Protocol development:** Based on the standard template, version controlled.

**Protocol approval:** After PRC review (internal quality check only if no major changes is done to the outline); for non-EORTC Intergroup protocols take it or leave it principle is applied.

### Data management systems

General: Full data management capacity supported by Vista Clinical Trials, state of the art Clinical Data Management System for multicenter clinical trials. Vista Clinical Trials is EORTC proprietary software fully validated and CDISC compliant software.

Within the framework of ECRIN Integrated Activities (European Clinical Research Infrastructures network and biotherapy facilities), EORTC will make this software available to ECRIN members at affordable conditions. The deployment of Vista Clinical Trials to ECRIN members will take place shortly, after the upgrades aiming to adapt the system to the needs of new users within the frame of ECRIN as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium supported by Member states. The user support will be organized by EORTC in cooperation with ECRIN.

CRF and database development: e-CRFs are used & study specific database development is very easy and can be rapidly done by data managers; CRFs are reviewed by the form review committee for quality control.

**eCRF usage:** Web based system available 24h 7/7d – homemade software called VISTA

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Web based system available 24h 7/7d – EORTC [proprietary](#) fully validated software called ORTA

## Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** As per legislation – expertise for > 30 countries, mainly EU

Submission to Ethical committees is frequently delegated to national coordinators and supported by EORTC HQ. EORTC has established liaison offices in a number of countries (currently United Kingdom, France, Poland and Germany) which enable EORTC to provide more support to national coordinators and investigators in these countries, where submissions to

**Regulatory approval:** As per legislation – expertise for > 30 countries, mainly EU

**Adverse event reporting:** Yes, full capacity for reporting to EC/CA and EVCTM as per legislation

## Study activity

**Start up:** Case by case depending on the trial arrangements

**Monitoring:** Limited capacity in house, need for a CRO for extensive monitoring

**Audit:** Systematic audits every 3 years for biggest recruiters, case by case on-purpose audits for other sites

## Promotion and recruitment

All EORTC trials are posted on the web site.

All trials are discussed 2 times a year during group meetings

Recruitment is closely monitored by project managers, policy is available to manage poorly recruiting trials

## Group Contacts

**Address:** EORTC, *European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer*, AISBL-IVZW, Avenue E. Mounierlaan, 83/11, Bruxelles 1200 Brussel, Belgique – België. Tel: +32 (0)2 774 16 35. Fax: +32 (0)2 779 50 97

E-mail: [denis.lacombe@eortc.be](mailto:denis.lacombe@eortc.be). Group Chair: Antonio Casado Herraiez, Hospital Universitario San Carlos, C/ Profesor Martin Lagos, s/n 28040 Madrid, E-mail: [antonioacasado@telefonica.net](mailto:antonioacasado@telefonica.net)

**Harmonization (Operations):** Anastassia Negrouk

**Harmonization (Statistics):**

**Website:** [www.eortc.be](http://www.eortc.be); [http://www.eortc.be/Groups/agroup.asp?gr=8&SH=EORTC GCG](http://www.eortc.be/Groups/agroup.asp?gr=8&SH=EORTC%20GCG)



## GCGS (GyneCologic Cancer Group Singapore)

### Background

**Group structure:** GCGS is a non-profit organization formed in 2017 for the study and advancement of gynecological cancer care in Singapore and the region. The Group have a Board, which is made up of Executive Board and General Board. The Executive Board consists of president, vice-president, immediate past-president, secretary and treasurer. The General Board will have 9 elected members. There are a Nominating Committee, Education Committee, Bylaws Committee, Membership Committee and Scientific Committee.

**Legal entity:** GCGS is a legal entity registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs under Registry of Society.

**Membership criteria:** Membership is open to any individual with a professional or special interest in women's cancer care. Applications for membership are reviewed and approved by both the Board and the Membership Committee. Applicants may apply to be Full, Senior, Associate, Honorary or Affiliate members.

**Funding:** GCGS has no central funding. Funding for individual trials may be from competitive grant applications or from industry.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The coordinating centre for all clinical trials is performed by the Haematology-Oncology Research Group (HORG) Trial Unit in National University Cancer Institute of Singapore. The HORG trial unit manages and supports all aspects of the clinical trial: from securing the ethics and regulatory approval to the conduct of the study.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Any GCGS member is entitled to present new protocols at the biannual GCGS meeting or send a proposal to the scientific committee. If the proposal is accepted, the GCGS coordinating centre will assist the lead principal investigator with the setup of the trial.

**Protocol development:** The protocol will be developed by the respective lead principal investigator and the scientific committee. After protocol finalization, it will be submitted to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and any applicable Regulatory Authority for approval.

### Data management systems

**General:** There are 2 options in the implementation of the data management system for GCGS studies. First option - The data management system is hosted on REDCAP, a eCRF platform for entering data. However due to limitation of REDCAP, this option is feasible only if the study is conducted within Singapore with GCGS sites.

Second option -Data management is hosted on an eCRF platform built by an external CRO whom the study team outsource the service to. This option is often implemented if the study is a multi-national study involving international sites beyond Singapore i.e. GCGS in collaboration with international sites.

**CRF and database development:** CRF and database development may take 2-4 months, depending on the complexity of the study design and data-points to be collected.

**eCRF usage:** The site personnel at each of the participating sites will be given a user account for entering the data collected for the study into the eCRF.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** If the study is a randomized study involving many sites, a web-based randomization platform will be needed and GCGS will thus engage an external vendor for this service (e.g. Cenduit, etc). Site personnel will be required to logon onto the platform to randomize the subjects

recruited into the study. The enrolment for study which has more than 1 site will be managed and monitored centrally by the lead site office coordinator/administrator.

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:** All research involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the IRB prior to initiation. All approved research projects must comply with the IRB requirements which are based on Declaration of Helsinki and the ethical principles in the Belmont Report. The IRB requirements are also compliant with the guidelines stipulated by the Bioethics Advisory Committee. The IRB will review and approve the Protocol, the Patient Information and Informed Consent Form, the Investigators Brochure or any media materials use to advertise the study.

**Regulatory approval:** The Health Sciences Authority (HSA), through its Health Products Regulation Group, regulates the conduct of clinical trials in Singapore under the Health Products Act and Medicines Act and their subsidiary legislations. The system of regulation requires that Principal Investigators (PI) conducting clinical trials to obtain both ethics and regulatory approvals before initiating a study. The ethics approval is from the hospital's Institutional Review Board (IRB). In order to receive regulatory approval from HSA to conduct clinical trials here, companies must provide relevant evidence that the investigational drug is acceptably safe and the design and conduct of the trial provide adequate levels of protection for participants.

**Adverse event reporting:** Any adverse event, which meets the three basic reporting criteria listed below, is considered as a reportable adverse event. The criteria are:

1. an adverse event (or potential adverse event) has occurred;
2. the device product is associated with the adverse event;
3. the adverse event led to one of the following outcomes:
  - a serious threat to public health;
  - serious deterioration in state of health of patient, user or other person;
  - no death or serious injury occurred but the event might lead to death or serious injury of a patient, user or other person if the event recurs.
  - death of a patient, user or other person

The reporting timeline for adverse event are:

- within 48 hours for events that represents a serious threat to public health;
- within 10 days for events that has led to the death, or a serious deterioration in the state of health, of a patient, a user of the medical device or any other person;
- within 30 days for events where a recurrence of which might lead to the death, or a serious deterioration in the state of health, of a patient, a user of the medical device or any other person

### **Study activity**

**Start up:** In starting up a study, 5 components have to be in-place, namely, IRB approval, HSA approval, clinical trial agreement signed, sufficient study budget in place, and lastly study drugs availability. The timeline of the start-up processes may range from as short as 3 months to several months depending on various factors such as:

- approval of the concept and study protocol by the pharma-company,
- availability of study budget (often depending on approval of the budget proposal by the pharma-company and/or outcome of the grant application from national funding agency),
- clinical trial agreement review process between the lead site and the pharma-company, as well as subsequently the vendor agreement review process between the lead site and the CROs, as well as the other participating sites,

- No. of IRB and HSA queries
- Study drugs logistics, labelling, storage and distribution strategy. For single-centre studies, a more straight-forward approach can be implemented, i.e. for the pharma-company to send the study drugs directly to the study site. For multi-centre studies, 2 options are available, i.e. 1) for the pharma-company to send the study drugs directly to each of the sites, 2) if the pharma-company is unable to perform the latter, the study has to engage an external drug depot vendor to perform the above-mentioned activities. This comes with a cost.
- CRO proposal review and negotiation process to ensure that the outsourced services (including but limited to project management, data management, pharmacovigilance and study monitoring) are performed according to the study requirements.

**Monitoring:** For GCGS study within Singapore, several monitoring options are available: 1) in-house monitoring by each of the institution's research offices monitors, and internal monitoring by HORG quality team (limited only to HORG).

For GCGS study that involves multiple sites regionally/internationally, 2 monitoring options are available: 1) for the lead site to centrally engage CRO to perform monitoring for all participating sites, and 2) each of the country/site is given a fixed budget for monitoring so that each of the country/site will engage their own monitors to perform the monitoring at their sites. In this method, the lead site will share a central monitoring plan for all the sites to follow. In addition, depending on the availability of the study budget and registration status of the study, the study may opt for minimum level of monitoring with low percentage of SDV with low percentage of subjects selected for monitoring (focus only on key/crucial components of the study, and randomly select certain percentage of subjects to be monitored), to high level of monitoring with high percentage of SDV with high percentage of subjects selected for monitoring.

**Audit:** All study with GCGS is subjected to audits conducted internally by the department ( HORG quality team) , institution research offices, as well as external audits by the IRB, HSA, and the sponsor pharma-company.

### Promotion and recruitment

All GCGS studies and new proposals will be discussed during biannual group meeting. GCGS also targets to organise at least 1 scientific symposium or workshop annually.

### Group Contacts

**Address:** National University Hospital (NUH)

National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS)

NUHS Tower Block, Level 7, 1E Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119228

**Group Chair:** Associate Professor David SP Tan (Email: [david\\_sp\\_tan@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:david_sp_tan@nuhs.edu.sg))

Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist, Department of Haematology-Oncology,

DID: (65) 6773 7888 Fax: (65) 6777 5545

**Harmonization (Operations):** Ms. Joanne Chio (Email: [joanne\\_chio@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:joanne_chio@nuhs.edu.sg))

Head, Clinical Trials

Haematology- Oncology Research Group ( HORG), Department of Haematology-Oncology,

DID: (65) 6772 2611 Fax: (65) 6872 3137

## GEICO (The Grupo Español de Investigación en Cáncer de Ovario)

### Background

**Group structure:** Executive Board (Steering Committee), Directive Board (formed by SC plus each working group coordinator), 8 working groups (Cervical, Endometrium, Ovarian, Gynaecologic (Surgical), Translational, Scientific Office, Communication and Image Office, Continuing education Office), Technical Secretariat.

**Legal entity:** Yes.

**Membership criteria:** *Representative member:* Clinical Oncologist. Once the application is submitted to GEICO Secretariat, the Executive Board evaluate and within 30 days, the applicant receive the official communication, regarding its application. One per Site. They can vote during assemblies.

*Active Member:* Clinical Oncologist, Graduates in Health Science whose professional activities is oriented to the diagnosis, treatment study and research of the gynecological tumors, working in association with / in sites members of GEICO. Once the application is submitted to GEICO Secretariat, the Executive Board evaluate and within 30 days, the applicant receive the official communication, regarding its application, they can attend the assembly. It is possible to be more than one member per Site. They don't vote unless the "representative member" delegate this activities in special situations.

*Observer members:* They can attend assemblies. They don't vote. They are as observer until they are accepted as active member.

**Funding:** No government funding.

**Coordinating/data centre:** GEICO Technical Secretariat – MFAR, S.L., Secretari Coloma, 64-68, esc. B, entlo. 5ª, 08024 Barcelona, email: secretaria@grupogeico.org, Tel 93 434 44 12, Fax 93 253 11 68

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** The scientific committee of the group (formed by the corresponding Working Group (depending de Pathology), and the Steering committee) review the proposals which can be initiated by an individual member, a cooperative group (mainly the GCIG) or by the industry through a member of the GEICO. All the proposals are presented at the general meeting (twice a year), where must be approved. Then the protocol is submitted to all the members interested in order to suggest modifications. Finally the scientific committee review the suggestions and write the definitive protocol which will be submitted to the Spanish Drug Agency (AEM) and ethics committees (Central and Local).

Protocol ID, GEICO XYYY XX=number of protocol YY=year

**Protocol development:** A study-coordinator is nominated for Intergroup trials. For local studies, the GEICO member proposing the study concept is nominated the study-coordinator.

The Chief Investigator (Coordinator) or its designee is in charge of the protocol development.

**Protocol approval:** The scientific committee of the group (formed by the corresponding Working Group (depending the Pathology), and the Steering committee) review the proposals which can be initiated by an individual member, a cooperative group (mainly the GCIG) or by the industry through a member of the GEICO. All the proposals are presented at the general meeting (twice a year), where must be approved. Then the protocol is submitted to all the members interested in order to suggest modifications. Finally the scientific committee review the suggestions and write the definitive protocol which will be submitted to the Spanish Drug Agency (AEM) and ethics committees (Central and Local).

Protocol ID, GEICO XYYY XX=number of protocol YY=year

### Data management systems

**General:** The CRO contracted is the responsible of collecting CRF, management of queries, SAE management, IRB approvals, regulatory requirements, and other administrative duties.

**CRF and database development:** The CRO contracted is the responsible of collecting CRF, management of queries, SAE management, IRB approvals, regulatory requirements, and other administrative duties.

**eCRF usage:** Protocol Specific. All GEICO sites can use eCRF.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Protocol Specific. Registration via Fax for local protocols with confirmation after randomization sent to the investigator via FAX. For GCIG protocols GEICO use to contract a CRO. All GEICO Sites can perform on-line randomisations.

For phase II trials recruitment is limited to a number of centers depending on the sample size required. The selection of centers is based on previous activity or participation.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** The protocol must be approved by the Spanish Drug Agency (AEMPS) and by a reference ethical committee. The reference ethical committee use to be the ethical committee of the study-coordinator institution. Investigator commitment and CV required when presenting the protocol at the ethical committee. Medical Director and Financial Director approval required.

**Regulatory approval:** Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices, by means of EudraCT V 8.0 application.

**Adverse event reporting:** Only SUSARs as per European Directive. 7 days if dead, 15 days if no exitus. Reporting to: Central Ethic Committee, Local Ethic Committee, Competent Authorities and Autonomous Community in which SUSAR has occurred. Biannual safety reports in case of International Clinical Trials, Annual safety reports for the rest of Clinical trials.

### Study activity

**Start up:** The CRO contracted is the responsible of collecting CRF, management of queries, SAE management, IRB approvals, regulatory requirements, and other administrative duties.

**Monitoring:** GEICO use to contract a CRO for protocol monitoring. Monitoring may be on site or by phone depending on funding.

**Audits:** Depending on protocol and funding.

### Promotion and recruitment

The studies are promoted at each annual meetings. All protocol proposals are circulated by e-mail to GEICO members. Active protocols can be consulted in the web site [www.grupogeico.org](http://www.grupogeico.org). In some cases, mailshots to all members are used for particular clinical trials.

Activity of protocols are updated every two months for the newsletter

### Group Contacts

**Address:** C/ Velazquez N 7, 3 planta - 28001 - Madrid – Spain.

**Technical Secretariat Address:** GEICO Technical Secretariat - MFAR, S.L., Secretari Coloma, 64-68, esc. B, entlo. 5ª, 08024 Barcelona

**Email:** [secretaria@grupogeico.org](mailto:secretaria@grupogeico.org), Tel 93 434 44 12, Fax 93 253 11 68

**Group Chair:** Dr. Antonio González

**Harmonization (Operations):** Federico Nepote (GEICO Secretariat)

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Protocol specific – Subcontracted if needed.

**Website:** [www.grupogeico.org](http://www.grupogeico.org)

## G-GOC (MD Anderson Consortium)

### Background

The Global Gynecologic Oncology Consortium (G-GOC) was formed in 2013. Our Mission Statement: *A global collaborative network dedicated to innovative clinical, surgical, and translational research through partnership with international centers with the common goal of high impact changes in current standards of care.*

The leading institution for G-GOC is MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC). The consortium is formed by the following institutions: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY), Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN), MD Anderson Regional Care Centers (Houston, TX), Cooper Health (Camden, NJ), Banner MD Anderson (Phoenix, AZ), Barretos Cancer Center (Barretos, Brazil), Instituto de Cancerologia Las Americas (Medellin, Colombia), and Hospital Italiano (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

To date, there are two major prospective surgical trials that are currently actively accruing both nationally and internationally. The first of these trials is the LACC Trial (G-GOC-1001). This is a prospective trial comparing open vs. minimally invasive surgery in patients undergoing radical hysterectomy for the management of early cervical cancer. This trial is currently opened in 26 centers worldwide and has accrued 350 patients out of a total of 740 patients. The second of these trials is the ConCerv Trial (G-GOC-1002). This is a prospective trial evaluating the role of conservative surgery in patients with low-risk early-stage cervical cancer. This trial is currently opened in 8 centers worldwide. It has accrued 50 patients of a total of 100 patients.

We have several other prospective surgical trials that are currently accruing at MD Anderson but soon to begin accrual in other centers in the United States and internationally. Our future goals are to incorporate prevention and therapeutic trials in addition to the surgical trials.

### Group structure:

G-GOC represents a network of 9 institutions from 4 different countries. The **Steering Committee** is the legislative body of **G-GOC**. The effective **Voting Members** of the **Steering Committee** are the **Chair**, the **Past Chair**, the **Chair of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Dept of Gynecology**, each **Institutional Chair**, and the **Principal Investigator** for the top accruing institution of the previous year (Calendar Year). The **Steering Committee** provides support to the **Chair** in the decision-making and strategy planning process. The **Steering Committee** meets on a Quarterly basis. **Chair** is elected by the **Steering Committee** every two years.

Policies, proposals, and strategies are discussed and approved by the **Steering Committee**. The **Steering Committee** delegates specific functions to the respective participating institutions and the leading Principal Investigators for each site within G-GOC.

G-GOC is organized into groups of scientists and/or clinicians, each with a specific area of interest in translational, surgical, and clinical research. Such groups conduct respective investigations on all types of gynecologic cancers using a multidisciplinary approach.

The Research **Director** (Susan Pilat) coordinates all administrative, legal and financial management activities of the organization; and implements the strategies and policies as defined by the **Steering Committee**. The **Research Director** also provides support to the **Chair** in the decision-making and strategy planning process.

The **Research Director** is appointed by the **Steering Committee** and by the Chair of the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center.



**Legal entity:** Yes. All legal documentations are cleared by the Legal Department at MD Anderson Cancer Center. All contracts must be reviewed and approved by the Legal Department of all participating respective institutions.

**Membership criteria:**

**Associate Members**

Any site interested in becoming part of G-GOC must submit an application that outlines in detail the reason and potential benefits of a mutual collaboration between their institution and the G-GOC sites. Such application must provide information regarding all of the following:

- a. CV of Principal Investigator
- b. structure and background of the institution
- c. brief summary of the research history of the institution in gynecologic oncology
- d. infra-structure of the current research team
- e. declaration of intent to comply with all regulatory and audit requirements as determined by G-GOC
- f. overview of standard equipment required for proper conduct of the study or current standards of care
- g. List of all staff involved in the conduct of the study with documentation of Human Subjects Protection and Research Training.
- h. documentation of IRB membership

**Active Members**

The title of Active Member will be granted to any institution in good standing that has demonstrated ability to appropriately conduct a trial. Consideration for Active Membership will be given to such a site no earlier than one year from designation as Associate Member and initiation of a clinical trial as part of the G-GOC network.

Active Members are granted such designation after a majority vote in the **Steering Committee** meeting.

There is no fee for joining G-GOC

Recruitment of at least five patients per calendar year is expected dependent upon date of site activation and current progress of the pertinent trial(s).

**Funding:** Any available funding support for studies is generated from the respective institution that initiates the study. Such support may be obtained by the investigators or collaborative group through different sources including, but not limited to, research grants, industry sponsorship, and/or philanthropy.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The central management of the consortium is currently performed by MD Anderson Cancer Center. G-GOC supports the operational aspects of research through protocol development, data and project management, and regulatory affairs. All coordinating responsibilities are through the G-GOC Steering Committee.

**Study approval process**

**Concept and Protocol development:**

A study Concept is initiated by the Principal Investigator of the individual institution within G-GOC and such Concept is then presented to the G-GOC Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meets on a Quarterly Basis. Ad hoc meetings may be scheduled in order to expedite protocol approval and activation.

A study Concept is generally a brief outline summarizing the study's objectives, proposed methods, background, and rationale.

A Concept should include the following mandatory sections:

- Protocol Title
- Principal Investigator/Collaborators
- Study Rationale
- Potential impact on current practice guidelines (if any)
- Patient Population/Key Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria
- Treatment of Interest (and comparator if relevant)
- End Points
- Study design (Statistical Section Required)
- Anticipated resources required from G-GOC and investigator sites
- Translational Aspect (If applicable)

During the discussions of the Concept a number of factors need to be confirmed, such as feasibility, recruitment capacity, budget, and required resources. Upon approval of the concept, a protocol will be drafted and then be presented to the G-GOC Steering Committee for approval. The Protocol is then submitted to the IRB or Ethics committee of the submitting institution for approval. The Protocol is then circulated to other members of the consortium for review and potential participation. Approved studies are identified with the prefix G-GOC, followed by a protocol number assigned by G-GOC (e.g. G-GOC-001) based on disease group (cervix, uterine, ovarian, etc).

### **Data management systems**

**CRF and database development:** Forms are reviewed and developed by the respective institutions and reviewed by G-GOC Steering Committee with input from study chairperson, data management, IT, and statistical staff. All developed forms are required to comply with NCI approved Common Data Elements (CDE's) prior to activation.

**eCRF usage:** Protocol Specific. All G-GOC sites can use eCRF.

### **Randomization and enrollment:**

Protocol specific. All G-GOC sites will use randomization/registrations that are conducted as part of a web-based system and are carried out by site staff. In addition, there is a fax-based back-up system in place in case this is required for any unexpected event. When conducting a randomized trial, once the eligibility is confirmed and stratification factors, as determined by the protocol are entered, randomization result will appear automatically and a notification is sent to the sites.

The enrollment process includes standardized checks to ensure only credentialed sites and investigators are able to enter study subjects. Enrollment of subjects includes a series of programmed



checks to confirm eligibility/ ineligibility criteria and to permit only allowable values/dates for specified tests.

## **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

### **Ethics approval:**

The G-GOC **Steering Committee** requires that the protocol and informed consent documents must be approved by the local IRB/IEC prior to the participation in the trial. In addition, the protocol must be approved by the IRB/IEC for all participating institutions before individual site activation. Any protocol violations or deviations must be reported to the IRB of all participating institutions. All violations or deviations are annually reviewed and approved by the IRB/IEC in accordance with the applicable regulations at each institution.

All participating sites will be required to submit the IRB approval letter from their IRB or Ethic Committee to G-GOC administration office before enrolling patients. All documents pertaining to IRB/IEC approval, contracts, and selected source documents are required to be submitted in the English language.

### **Regulatory approval:**

#### G-GOC Initiated Trials

G-GOC will be responsible for assuring that all regulatory processes have been completed for each site before the protocol is activated. Relevant documents will be kept at MDACC for each participating site. Local regulatory requirements will be handled by site personnel.

#### Non-G-GOC Initiated Trials(Trials initiated by other groups who create a collaboration with one or more of the G-GOC sites)

For all non G-GOC initiated trials, the regulatory processes are the responsibility of the lead site as specified by mutual agreement among investigators and institutions from other collaborative groups with those of the G-GOC group.

### **Adverse event reporting:**

Sites are required to record AEs as defined in each individual protocol on case report forms.

Reporting of the AEs will follow local institutional requirements or guidelines. These AEs will be forwarded to G-GOC for central data capture and analysis.

#### **Serious Adverse Events and Serious Unexpected Problem Reporting:**

All SAEs and Serious Unexpected Problems are to be reported to the relevant regulatory authorities as delineated in each protocol and in keeping with local IRB/Ethics Committees and institution guidelines at each site. They will be forwarded to G-GOC (MDACC) as well for centralized data capture. Those SAEs and Serious Unexpected problems that are deemed definitively related to the protocol will be distributed to all participating sites for review and local processing.

### **Start up:**

#### G-GOC Initiated Trials

Site initiation meeting held as a teleconference prior to start of accrual of study. Teleconference requires presence of G-GOC Steering Committee President, Research Director, Principal Investigator, and relevant research staff.

Topics of discussion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Identification of responsible parties for conduct of study
- b. Review of study details
- c. Confirmation of finalized contracts
- d. Documentation of IRB/IEC approval
- e. Confirmation of personnel responsible for data collection and entry
- f. Review of all financial disclosures
- g. Review of strategies for study accrual

Documentation of all items above will be collected and stored at G-GOC main office (MDACC)

Non G-GOC Initiated Trials (Trials initiated by other groups who create a collaboration with one or more of the G-GOC sites)

Protocol and site specific protocol initiation based on the design of each protocol and any agreements in place.

### **Monitoring:**

#### G-GOC Initiated Trials

All G-GOC Initiated Trials will undergo centralized monitoring. Each protocol will provide a monitoring plan; the frequency and level of monitoring based on the design of the trial and level of subject risk. On-site monitoring may be carried out by the coordinating center or by a CRO. On-site monitoring is performed in accordance with the monitoring plan for the trial. Regular monitoring reports, including reports on patient accrual, adverse events, and protocol deviations are submitted and reviewed by **Steering Committee**.

Non G-GOC Initiated Trials (Trials initiated by other groups who create a collaboration with one or more of the G-GOC sites)

G-GOC will perform monitoring for G-GOC member sites only. Reports that are generated will be forwarded to the lead site for review and processing.

**Audit:** Systematic auditing plan for G-GOC centers is part of an overall quality program. Internal audit may be conducted at Coordinating Center (Institution), at regular intervals or ad hoc for cause auditing may occur at recruiting centers.

#### Continuation of research for approved protocols:

Each participating site will forward their IRB or Ethics Committee Continuing Review approval memo or letter to G-GOC for central record keeping.

### **Promotion and recruitment**

All studies are promoted at national and international meetings. All protocols are also promoted at each of the meetings sponsored by the Global Academic Program from the MD Anderson Cancer Center. When the protocols are ready, all potential investigators are called for commitment (sending

of an information letter). Protocols are also advertised in numerous peer-reviewed journals. Protocols are listed as part of the G-GOC list of protocols for the GCIG. Investigators interested to participate in the study fill a commitment form and fax this form to the G-GOC study office.

All protocols will be promoted through the G-GOC website (*In Progress*).

Recruitment is closely monitored by the Steering Committee. Poorly accruing trials are reviewed by the Steering Committee and the proper measures are addressed with the respective site and the Principal Investigator for the trial.

A G-GOC Newsletter will be sent to all sites and published in the G-GOC website on a Quarterly Basis.

### **Group Contacts**

Group Chair:

Pedro T Ramirez, MD

Professor of Medicine

Director of Minimally Invasive Surgical Research & Education

Department of Gynecologic Oncology & Reproductive Medicine

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

1515 Holcombe Blvd, Unit 1362

Houston, Texas 77030

Phone: 713-563-4569

Email: [peramire@mdanderson.org](mailto:peramire@mdanderson.org)

Chair, Dept of Gynecology Oncology and Reproductive Medicine

Karen Lu, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

1515 Holcombe Blvd, Unit 1362

Houston, Texas 77030

Phone: 713-745-8902

Email: [khlu@mdanderson.org](mailto:khlu@mdanderson.org)

### **Harmonization (Operations):**

Research Director: Susan Pilat, RN, BSN, CCRP

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Houston, Texas 77030

Phone: 713-745-4342

Facsimile: 713-792-7586

Email: [spilat@mdanderson.org](mailto:spilat@mdanderson.org)

### **Harmonization (Statistics):**

Protocol specific. MD Anderson Protocols-Mark Munsell

**Website:** TBD

## **GICOM (Grupo de Investigación en Cáncer de Ovario y Tumores Ginecológicos de México, A.C.)**

### **Background**

**Group structure:** Created in 2007, GICOM is a non-profit association that has contributed to establish standard therapies against gynaecological cancer and its main objective is the development of clinical, basic and translational Research within the gynaecological cancer area, working with the different Cancer Centers in the country. In addition to this, GICOM contributes to academic activities, prevention and early detection strategies, by developing alliances with national universities. At this moment GICOM has 140 Oncology Professionals all over the country in a network for Oncology Research and educational work in the Gynaecologic Cancer area.

**Legal entity:** GICOM is a legal entity that takes the role of Co-Sponsor for the Intergroup clinical trials

**Membership criteria:** Professionals in the field of Oncology area.

**Funding:** Private (from the Pharmaceutical Industry mainly) and sometimes Public funding. For Intergroup clinical trials funds are limited.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The Coordinating Centre is located at GICOM central office located in México City

### **Study approval process**

**Concept development and approval:** Any GICOM member is entitled to present a proposal of a new protocol to the Executive Board, who considers scientific merit and feasibility. In case the proposal is accepted by this Board and the Study Coordinating Group, it will be distributed to the Study

**Protocol development:** The protocol will be created by the respective Member/ Investigator who proposed the protocol, and the team assigned for such purpose.

**Protocol approval:** Once the protocol has the green light of GICOM Team, this is submitted to the local REC of the selected site.

### **Data management systems**

**CRF and database development:** Protocol Specific.

**eCRF usage:** Protocol Specific. All GICOM sites can use eCRF if the web system is provided by the Sponsor. For intergroup studies paper CRF has been used

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Protocol Specific. All GICOM sites randomisations/registrations are carried out by site staff, using web-based systems. There is fax based back-up system in place in case this be required for any unexpected event.

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**In México, Ethics and regulatory approvals are sequential, and until when the MOH has approved the trial protocol, the site can be initiated.**

**Ethics approval:** In México, no Central REC exists, each site must have its local REC. When the local REC is work overloaded a request for transferring the submission to an Independent Research and Ethics Committee is presented.

Each participating site/PI should submit the protocol to its local Research and Bioethics Committees. In all cases the trial protocols, ICDs, Patient information Sheet, Patient Questionnaires, Investigator Brochure and any information provided to the patient must be reviewed and approved by both

committees. Timeline between submission and approval varies depending on the REC meeting frequency as well as their workload. GICOM PM, oversees this activity

**Regulatory approval:** For Intergroup Trials, GICOM is the Regulatory Responsible before the Health authorities. Once the study trial has been approved by the local REC, GICOM PM collect from the participating sites, the required documents for its incorporation to the regulatory dossier application. When completed the dossier is reviewed by the PM and GICOM's Regulatory Representative and it is submitted to the Comisión Federal para la Protección de Riesgos Sanitarios (COFEPRIS), an MOH entity.

**Adverse event reporting:** SUSARs occurring in México are reported to local RECs with 7 or 15 days for any suspected events and/or fatal or life threatening events to local RECs and the National Commission of Pharmacovigilance . Principal Investigator reports to his/her local EC the event and GICOM as regulatory responsible in the country, must coordinates/supervise/submit such reports to the regulatory authority until the event is closed.

SUSARs for non-Mexican sites are reported to the Local RECs every six months and to the COFEPRIS at the study closure notification a Summary is included. This applies for Phase II-III studies. When studies Phase IV are carried out these should be reported to the COFEPRIS every year .

### Study activity

**Site selection and feasibility:** Previous to the evaluation visit, GICOM asks to its members feedback on the prospect sites. They assess previous site/staff performance, recruitment rates (other trials), local REC's timelines, etc. An evaluation visit is performed and the feasibility, site assessment forms are completed, based on the result of the evaluation the site is selected or not.

**Start up:** Once:

- Ethics and regulatory approvals are obtained
- Essential Documents are in place
- Site Initiation Training completed
- Site Activation approval

**Monitoring:** Depending on the protocol specific schedule, recruitment and funding. An external local CRA is hired by GICOM for performing this task

**Audit:** According to the Protocol development at the site, usually every two years or before if required. GICOM PM performs QC visits minimum 2 visits/site/trial/year

### Promotion and recruitment

GICOM members

### Group Contacts

**Address:** Business & Therapy Place, Gran Sur Oficina 12. Ave. del Imán 151. Col Pedregal de Carrasco. 04700 México,D.F. México.

**E-Mail:** [gicomgrupomexicano@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:gicomgrupomexicano@yahoo.com.mx)

**Website:** [www.gicom.org.mx](http://www.gicom.org.mx)

**Group Chair:** Dolores Gallardo Rincón,MD, email: [dolores.gallardo@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:dolores.gallardo@prodigy.net.mx)

**Harmonization (Operations):** Adriana Chávez-Blanco,DVM, [adrianachavezblanco@gmail.com](mailto:adrianachavezblanco@gmail.com)

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Luis Oñate MD

## **GINECO (Group d'Investigateurs Nationaux pour l'Etude des Cancers Ovariens)**

### **Background**

**Group structure:** GINECO is a cooperative clinical trials group of clinicians dedicated to gynaecological cancer (and metastatic breast cancer) research in France- ARCAGY is the legal entity and the operational team of the GINECO group and is a non-profit organisation

**Legal entity:** No legal entity for GINECO and non-profit organization for ARCAGY

**Membership criteria:** No specific criteria to be a membership of the GINECO group which represents more than 100 oncology sites (public and private) and more than 600 investigators

**Funding:** Most funding from Pharma Industries – minor public funding

**Coordinating/data centre:** ARCAGY is the GINECO study office = 26 people team

### **Study approval process**

**Concept development and approval:** Each project is discussed first within a working group (7 working groups = ovarian first line, ovarian relapse, elderly, endometrium and cervix, translational, rare tumours and breast) and then validated within the scientific committee of GINECO (around 30 people)

**Protocol development:** The PI is the one who puts forward the concept and is involved in protocol design; a project manager is specifically dedicated. Data management could be internally if this is a national study. For international studies, it depends

**Protocol approval:** Should be approved by Ethics Committee (central) and by CA (French Health Agency)

### **Data management systems**

**General:** There is a data management team within ARCAGY consisting of data developers and programmers. The interaction with the clinical trial teams and the biostatistical team is very important.

**CRF and database development:** CRF are developed from CRF template by the clinical project leader and reviewed by clinician, data management, safety and monitors. Database is developed when CRF is validated.

**eCRF usage:** all studies have an e-CRF – No more paper CRF

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Randomisations are done through the e-CRF

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:** 1 central Ethics committee – approval given within 3 weeks after submission

**Regulatory approval:** CA = French Health Agency (European directive) – same XML file for all European countries – approval given within 60 days

**Adverse event reporting:** Investigators send the SAE by fax to the GINECO study office which are entered in the PV data base

### **Study activity**

**Start up:** Site initiation visit either by phone or on site- no specific study investigators meeting, usually done at the GINECO annual meeting

**Monitoring:** Internal CRAs for national studies – For international studies or big studies, use of a CRO

**Audit:** Internal Quality assurance department – internal audits (SOPs, TMF...) and sometimes on site audits – Audits from sponsor when Pharma Industry – Inspection from French CA

### **Promotion and recruitment**

The studies are promoted at regular meetings. When the protocol is ready, all potential investigators are called for commitment (sending of an information letter). Investigators interested to participate in the study fill a commitment form and fax this form to the GINECO study office. For small studies where a small number of sites is required, or for registration studies, only a few sites are called for commitment

### Group Contacts

**Address:** Hôpital Hôtel-Dieu – Place du Parvis Notre Dame – 75004 Paris

**Group Chair:** Pr Pujade-Lauraine – GINECO founder - The formal leadership of the GINECO includes 3 people in the role of Chair, co-chair and past-chair. The chair is elected as 1 year as co-chair, 1 year as chair and 1 year as past-chair

**Harmonization (Operations):** Bénédicte VOTAN = General Manager of GINECO study office

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Xavier Paoletti- statistician –

**Website:** [www.arcagy.org](http://www.arcagy.org)

## GOG (Gynecologic Oncology Group)

### Background

**Group structure:** The Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) is one of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) cooperative cancer research groups. GOG is the only U.S. cooperative group which focuses its research on women with pelvic malignancies, such as cancer of the ovary, uterus, and cervix. The GOG was organized in 1970 by a group of farsighted gynecologic surgeons with special interest in quality clinical research. They recognized the need for a collaborative research effort, not only among institutions, but also among the various disciplines involved in the treatment of women with gynecologic cancers. The GOG was among the first organizations to adopt a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, prospective approach to the management of pelvic malignancies in women. Currently over 3,300 patients are registered each year to approximately 60 GOG research trials. To date, GOG has completed over 300 clinical trials and contributed over 440 manuscripts to the peer reviewed medical literature. GOG continues to pave the way in gynecologic oncology trials, setting the standard for cancer research and treatment. The Administrative Office of the Group Chair is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Statistical and Data Center resides in Buffalo, New York

**Legal entity:**

**Membership criteria:**

**Funding:** Funding is based on per capita reimbursement specific to the protocol. Funding sources include the NCI main grant, NCI individual trial grants, and industry sponsored trials.

**Coordinating/data centre**

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** A study concept may be initiated by an individual member investigator within the GOG, by a GOG committee (usually a site committee or a special studies committee), by CTEP, by other cooperative groups, or by industry through a member of the GOG. A study concept is typically a brief outline summarizing the study's objectives, proposed methods, background and rationale. Depending on the study's objectives, these concepts are placed on the agendas for one or more of the Group's scientific committees which consider new concepts at each semi-annual GOG meeting. These committees make recommendations for approval, modification, or disapproval to the Protocol Committee through the chair and co-chair of the committee who sit as members of the Protocol Committee. The Protocol Committee's decision, by majority vote, determines which concepts will be fully developed into GOG studies. Studies are identified with the prefix GOG followed by a protocol number assigned by GOG (e.g. GOG-0182).

**Protocol development:** An approved study concept is assigned to a Principal Study Chair (usually the investigator proposing the study concept) plus a study co-chair representing each scientific discipline (Quality of Life, surgical, translational research, etc.) involved in the study. These individuals, with the statistician and data manager, develop a full protocol document for review by the GOG Protocol Committee at its quarterly meetings. Once the study has final Protocol Committee approval, it is submitted to CTEP and other appropriate agencies or sponsors for review and approval. Finally, each study must have local IRB approval prior to activation. Standard operating procedures are outlined in the Protocol Procedures Manual.

**Protocol approval:**

### Data management systems



**General:** Generic forms are developed utilizing Cardiff Teleform. Protocol specific forms are designed when needed

**CRF and database development:** Forms are reviewed and developed in the GOG SDC with input from study chairperson, data management, IT, and statistical staff. All developed forms are required to comply with NCI approved Common Data Elements (CDE's) prior to activation.

**eCRF usage:** Teleform forms can be submitted electronically utilizing SEDES (Statistical and Data Center Electronic Data Entry System).

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Patient registration and randomization are conducted via the Web through the Statistical and Data Center. Fast Fact Sheet (FFS) eligibility questions are answered online during registration and study number confirmation is generated via the web. Telephone entry is available for selected phase II and phase I study patient entry. Randomization techniques – both, minimization and block randomization

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

Ethics approval

Local IRB

Regulatory approval

National: CTEP, FDA, CIRB, DCPC, GOG IRB

Adverse event reporting

CTC V3.0 as of January 2005

### **Study activity**

**Start up:** All phase III studies are activated through the GOG Administrative Office following CIRB approval. Documentation of local IRB approval is required before patients can be registered. An activation memo is distributed to all participating institutions on the date of official study activation. In addition, all protocols are subjected to GOG IRB approval prior to activation. The GOG IRB meets semi-annually at each GOG Business Meeting. Interim meetings are held via teleconference as needed.

**Local Activation:** All CTEP approved trials are subject to either the National CIRB (central IRB) or local IRB approval at each institution. All institutional IRB's are required to obtain an FWA (Federalwide Assurance Number). Investigators are required to obtain an Investigator Number and submit an FDA Form 1572.

**Center ID's** – Three digit assigned number (e.g. 001...119).

CCOP's (Cancer Clinical Oncology Program) 800's (e.g. 801....819).

**Patient ID's** –Ten digit number (Institution ID code – Protocol number – 3 digit sequencing) (e.g. 038-0182-004).

*Center/Investigator approval:*

**Monitoring**

**Audit**

### **Promotion and recruitment**

The GOG is promoted through its own web site [www.gog.org](http://www.gog.org) .

All GOG trials are registered on the NCI's PDQ data base for clinical trials.

Patients are recruited through participating institutions and through CTSU for selected phase III studies.

### **Group Contacts**

**Address:**

**Group Chair:** Philip DiSaia

**Harmonization (Operations):** Bette Stonebraker

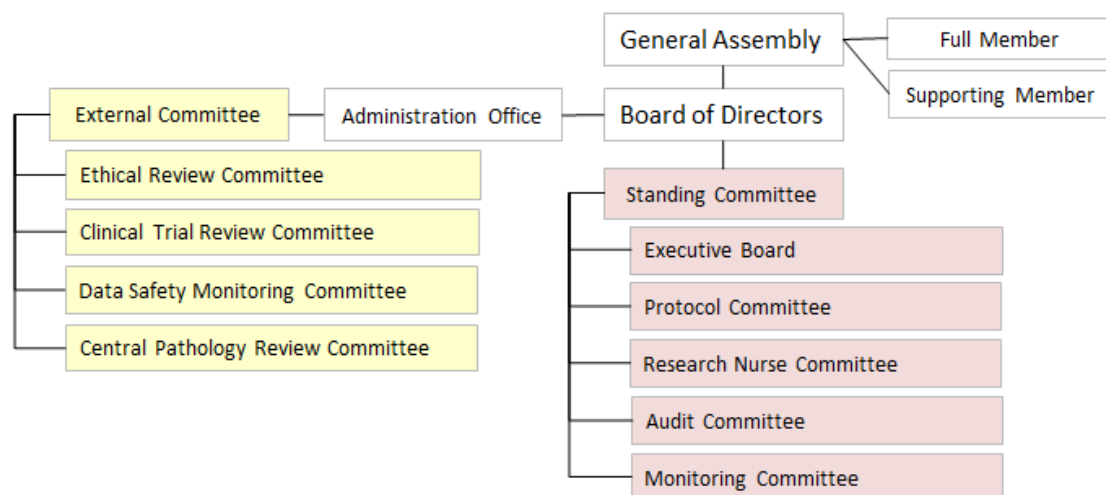
**Harmonizations (Statistics):** Mark Brady

**Website:** [www.gog.org](http://www.gog.org)

# GOTIC (Gynecologic Oncology Trial and Investigation Consortium)

## Background

### Group structure:



GOTIC (Gynecologic Oncology Trial and Investigation Consortium) is a general incorporated association for the clinical trials in gynecological malignancies, based in North Kanto in Japan. GOTIC was founded in 2008. The Group Chairman of GOTIC is Mitsuaki Suzuki, MD, PhD.

The main purpose of GOTIC is to establish optimal treatment along with prevention and diagnostic method for gynecological malignancies. The group activities include conducting clinical research, providing support for sites in clinical research, and giving education for staff involved in GOTIC research. GOTIC was founded not only for the development of treatment for gynecological malignancies but also for the contribution to promotion of clinical research activities in the North Kanto region in Japan. The administrative office of GOTIC is located in Saitama, Japan.

As of October 2019, GOTIC has 46 approved member institutions, including academic medical centers, cancer centers, prefectural hospital and private practice clinics. The number of full member is 148.

**Legal entity:** GOTIC is a general incorporated association.

**Membership criteria:** GOTIC consists of two types of members: 1) Full member 2) Supporting member. Full membership is open to anyone that satisfies membership qualification with an interest in gynecological cancer who participates actively on clinical trial or research. Supporting member is open for industry. Approval by the Group Chairman is needed to become a full member. Application Form can be downloaded from GOTIC web site (<http://www.gotic.jp/regularmember.html>).

The site performance is evaluated by the number of patient enrollment as well as the quality of data.

**Funding:** GOTIC is funded by mixture resources from pharmaceutical industries, medical device companies and government funding. Depending on the study, some investigator-initiated trials have reimbursement to the institution. Funding resources depends on the trials (e.g. pure academic trials, industry sponsored trials)

**Coordinating Centre:** Global Health Research Coordinating Center (GHRCC) at Kanagawa Institute of Industrial Science and Technology (KISTEC) in Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, serves as the coordinating center and Center for Novel and Exploratory Clinical Trials (Y-NEXT) at Yokohama City University School of Medicine in Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, serves as the data center for GOTIC. All CRFs and SAE reports

are collected by Y-NEXT. Y-NEXT is responsible for all data management aspects of study, such as eligibility checks, data reviews, and data analysis. GHRCC also manages IRB approvals, safety information, and regulatory requirements. On-site monitoring and quality assurance is also performed by GHRCC. GOTIC administration office in Saitama handles funding and other administrative duties.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Any full member of GOTIC is entitled to propose a protocol concept for consideration to the Protocol Committee. After scientific aspects are discussed among Protocol Committee, GHRCC and Y-NEXT including statistician(s) gets involved to determine feasibility of the study. One or two protocol concepts are selected per committee meeting, which is held two or three times a year. The GOTIC Executive Board determines which concept will be fully developed as GOTIC study. The Executive Board has a consultation with the Board of Directors, if necessary.

**Protocol development:** The selected protocol concepts are developed as protocol drafts by each Study Chair with GHRCC to be submitted and reviewed at the Protocol Committee and the GOTIC Executive Board.

**Protocol approval:** Protocol is then approved by Clinical Trial Review Committee and Ethical Review Committee. The approved protocol is reported to the Boards of Directors then the GOTIC protocol number is assigned. Protocol numbers are assigned in starting order of the GOTIC studies. (GOTIC-001, GOTIC -002...). Major protocol amendments or any IC amendments need to be reviewed for approval by Ethical Review Committee and Clinical Trial Review Committee.

### Data management systems

**General:** Medidata RAVE Version 5.6.3 (~2014.11), Version 2014.1.0 (2014.12~)

**CRF and database development:** Case report form (CRF) is mainly electronic, but paper based in the cases of Phase 1 or small studies. Forms are developed from the standard modules for gynecologic cancer trial that were created at Y-NEXT and modified for specific protocol. Most of the terms used in CRFs are adopting Common Data Elements by NCI. For coming studies Y-NEXT is working on building Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM) based EDC as the template for all GOTIC studies.

All CRFs are discussed and reviewed by the study team members (chief investigator, study coordinator(s), data manager(s), and statistician(s)) before finalization.

**eCRF usage:** Electronic Data Capture (EDC) system, Medidata Rave, is used.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Web based enrollment is available on Medidata Rave, which includes the form to check the eligibility of the patients before allowing access to the randomization form.

Randomization is done by Medidata Balance which allows randomization 24hrs via internet. Once the eligibility is confirmed and stratification factors which are determined by the protocol are entered, randomization result appears automatically on the same form.

Randomization techniques: minimization, block randomization

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** The government recommends utilization of central IRB, however most institutions require obtaining IRB approval locally. The protocol and informed consent documents must be approved by the local IRB/IEC prior to the participation in the trial. They are annually reviewed and approved by the IRB/IEC in accordance with the applicable regulations at each institution.

**Regulatory approval:**

**National:**

Indication-directed clinical trial: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)

Other than indication-directed clinical trial: Local board regulated by Japanese Ethical Guideline for Clinical Research (December 2014)

**Local:** Local IRB/IEC

**Adverse event reporting:** As the specifications in Japanese Ethical Guidelines as well as government notice regarding AE reporting, if unexpected serious adverse events occur, the head official of the individual participating institution must immediately report to MHLW. GHRCC coordinates the reporting process. In studies conducted under Advanced Medical Service System (AMSS), when the SAEs that are specified as reporting requirement under AMSS occur, site must immediately report to study chair through GHRCC, then the MHLW and the Head of the Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare according to the specified time frames: Within 7 days for cases resulting in death or life-threatening cases, within 15 days in cases where the occurrence of the event, incidence, and/or the conditions of onset were unexpected.

For Investigator-initiated, Indication-directed (IIID) clinical trials, there are several different requirements. All life-threatening SAE and death that occurred in Japan are reportable to PMDA, as well as to other participating site investigators and IRBs.

The IIID clinical trial PIs in Japan are also responsible to reporting the study related SUSAR CIOMS, the list of SAEs in the study, and DSUR to PMDA. GHRCC well as to the sites/IRBs. GHRCC supports the reviewing/reporting process.

### Study activity

#### **Site selection and feasibility:**

**Start up:** New protocol is announced in the GOTIC web site. New studies are informed by e-mail and/or in GOTIC General Assembly held once a year. Also, face to face meeting is planned when budget allows.

**Monitoring:** Protocol dependent. Central monitoring is performed by GHRCC according to the rules specified in the SOP. On-site monitoring is performed in accordance with the monitoring plan for the trial separately specified. For all indication-directed clinical trials and the trials under AMSS, on-site monitoring including Source Document Verification is performed by GHRCC monitors.

Regular monitoring reports, including reports on patient accrual, adverse events, protocol deviations and etc., are prepared by GHRCC twice a year from the reported data on CRFs, and submitted and reviewed by Monitoring Committee and the Data Safety Monitoring Committee of GOTIC.

**Audit:** Protocol dependent. For the indication-directed trials sponsored either by the pharmaceutical companies or the investigators themselves, the participating institutions are subject of audit by the audit team from the sponsor or Contract Research Organization (CRO). PMDA conducts GCP Inspection for all indication-directed trials. Some audits for non-indication-directed trials are performed by the GOTIC Audit Committee. As general, all GOTIC clinical trials are subject to audit by the CRO which annually makes contract with GOTIC administration office.

### Promotion and recruitment

- Each trial is promoted for active participation to all GOTIC members at the regular meetings (E.g. Executive Board, Protocol Committee) and also announced at the GOTIC web site (<http://www.gotic.jp/>).
- Additionally:
  - GOTIC Educational Seminal is held approximately three times a year.
  - General Assembly and Administrative Board meeting is held annually.
- GOTIC newsletter is issued quarterly to inform the GOTIC members regarding status of all GOTIC trials and other information for attention.

Patient Recruitment of the group-wide protocol is limited within GOTIC member institutions. However, inter-group study with other group is also encouraged.

- 5-6 members participate in GCIG meetings held overseas twice a year and seek new international collaboration studies.

### Group Contacts

**Address: GOTIC Administration Office,** Grand Building 20D, Morohongo 5, Irumagun Moroyama-machi, Saitama 350-0451, JAPAN

**Phone:** TEL: 81 49 292 9043

**Website:** <http://www.gotic.jp/>

**Group Chair:** Mitsuaki Suzuki, MD, PhD. Grand Building 20D, Morohongo 5, Irumagun Moroyama-machi, Saitama 350-0451, JAPAN.

**Harmonization (Operations):** Yusuke Kajimoto, MA. Global Health Research Coordinating Center (GHRCC), Kanagawa Institute of Industrial Science and Technology (KISTEC), 3-2-1 Sakado, KSP East 3F 309, Takatsu-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, 213-0012, JAPAN

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Takeharu Yamanaka, Ph.D. Center for Novel and Exploratory Clinical Trials (Y-NEXT), Yokohama City University School of Medicine, 3-9 Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 236-0004, JAPAN

## **ISGO - pending**

### **Background**

**Group structure:**

**Legal entity:**

**Membership criteria:**

**Funding**

**Coordinating/data centre:**

### **Study approval process**

**Concept development and approval:**

**Protocol development:**

### **Data management systems**

**General:**

**CRF and database development:**

**eCRF usage:**

**Randomisation and enrolment:**

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:**

**Regulatory approval:**

**Adverse event reporting:**

### **Study activity**

**Start up:**

**Monitoring:**

**Audit:**

### **Promotion and recruitment**

### **Group Contacts**

**Address:**

**Group Chair:**

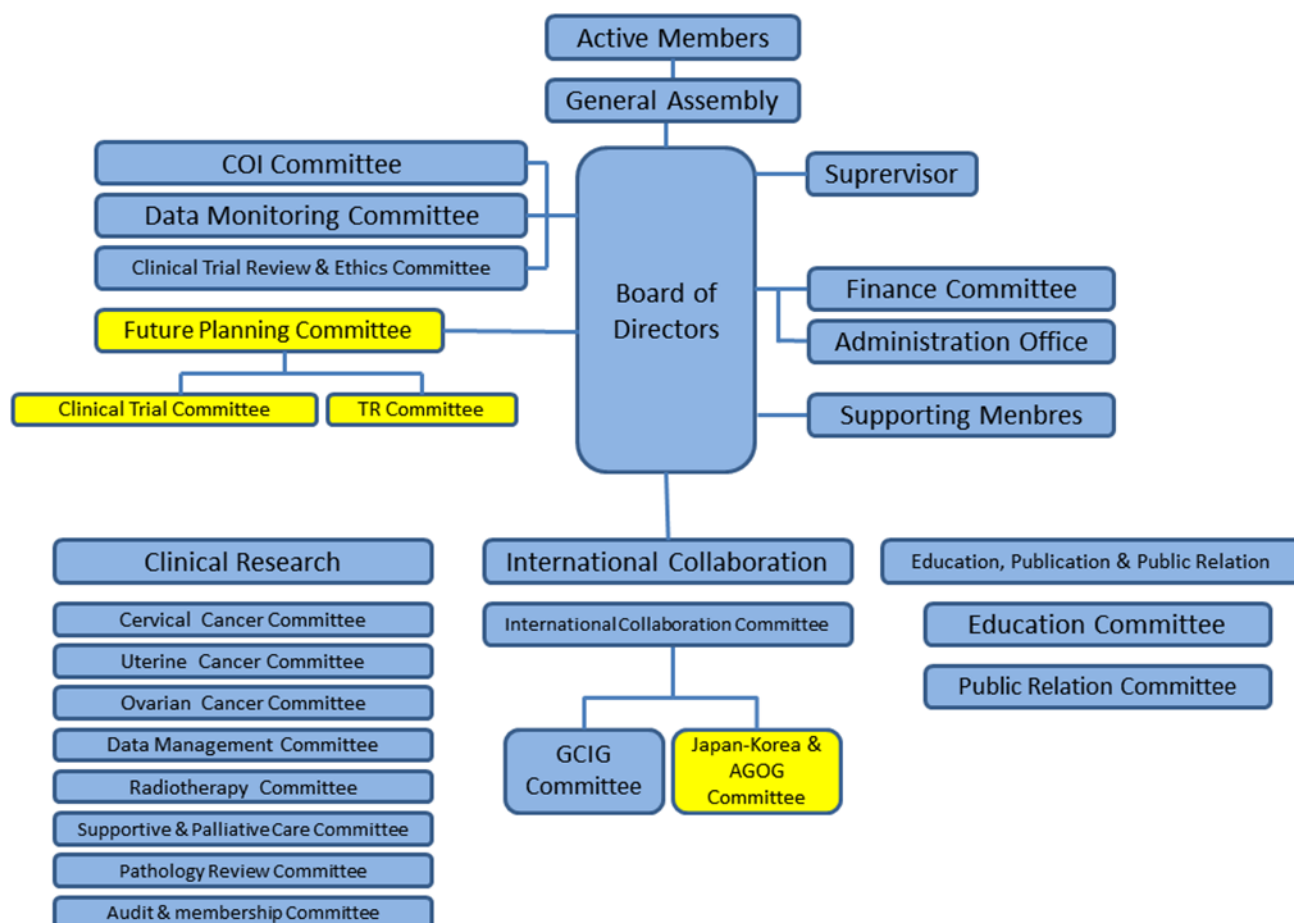
**Harmonization (Operations):**

**Harmonization (Statistics): Website:**

## JGOG (Japanese Gynecologic Oncology Group)

### Background

#### Group structure:



Japanese Gynecologic Oncology Group is a non-profit organization exclusively for the clinical trials in gynecological malignancies. JGOG was founded in 1981. The reformation of the group started in 2002 to improve its performance and to build more solid financial structure. The Group Chairman of the JGOG is Takayuki Enomoto, MD, PhD since January 2019.

The main purpose of JGOG is to establish new evidences for the treatment of gynecologic malignancies by performing high quality clinical trials. To accomplish this goal, JGOG holds up three missions to be attained.

The first mission is to execute high quality clinical trials among the member institutions nation-wide. To accomplish this mission, there are Disease Committees as well as committees for data management, pathology, and radiation oncology for quality control and assurance. The second mission is to execute international collaboration trials for gynecologic malignancies. The third mission is education, publications and public relation. The members of JGOG believe the importance of educating physicians, trial coordinators, health care providers, and patients and families, as well as the importance of high



quality clinical trials to establish new standard treatments, that will improve the treatment outcomes and will provide better quality of life in gynecologic cancer patients.

The administrative office of JGOG is located in Tokyo, Japan.

As of October 2019, JGOG has 203 approved member institutions, including academic medical centers, cancer centers, city hospitals, and private practice clinics. The number of full member is 1015. Member institutions are evaluated by Audit and Membership Committee on the basis of membership criteria.

**Legal entity:** JGOG is a non-profit organization.

**Membership criteria:** JGOG consists of two types of members: 1) Full member and 2) Supporting member. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in gynecological cancer. Application form can be downloaded from JGOG web site (<http://www.jgog.gr.jp/admission.html>).

**Funding:** Depending on the protocol, some investigator initiated clinical trials have reimbursement to the institution. JGOG points, which can be used for traveling costs to attend JGOG meetings, are given to each institution depending on accuracy and prompt submission of CRFs. JGOG points are also given for each patient registration.

JGOG is funded by mixture resources from pharmaceutical industries and government funding.

**Coordinating/data center:** Translational Research Center for Medical Innovation: TRI, serves as the coordinating center and the data center for JGOG. The TRI collects all CRFs and SAE reports. TRI is responsible for all data management aspects of study, such as eligibility checks, data reviews, and data analysis. TRI also manages IRB approvals, safety information, and regulatory requirement. On-site monitoring, audit, and quality assurance is also performed by TRI. JGOG administration office handles funding and other administrative duties.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Any full member of JGOG or member of Disease Committees is entitled to propose a protocol concept for consideration to the Disease Committees; Cervical Cancer Committee, Uterine Cancer Committee, and Ovarian Cancer Committee. After scientific aspects are discussed and reviewed among Disease Committees, TRI staff including statistician(s) gets involved to discuss science and determine the feasibility of the study. Several protocol concepts are selected per year as JGOG clinical trial and observational study in each Disease Committee. The Board of Directors determines which concepts will be fully developed as JGOG studies and then the JGOG protocol number is given. Protocol numbers consist of four figures and the first number is determined by the cancer site; '1' for cervical cancer, '2' for uterine endometrial cancer, and '3' for ovarian cancer.

**Protocol development:** The selected protocol concepts are developed as protocol drafts by the principal investigator and TRI to be submitted to and reviewed by the Board of Directors.

**Protocol approval:** Protocol is then finally approved by Board of Directors following the review by Clinical Trial Review Committee. Disease Committee requests JGOG Ethics Committee to also review the protocol draft in case of studies which require specific ethical consideration such as tissue banking and/or high risk studies to the participants. Major protocol amendments need to be reviewed by the JGOG Clinical Trial Review Committee and Data and Safety Monitoring Committee.

### Data management systems

**General:** Medidata RAVE Version 5.6.3 (~2014.11), Version 2018.2.2(2018.~)

#### CRF and database development:

Case report form (CRF) is mainly electronic, but paper based in the cases of Phase 1 or small studies. Forms are developed from the standard modules for gynecologic cancer trial that were created at TRI and modified for specific protocol. Most of the terms used in CRFs are adopting Common Data Elements

by NCI. For coming studies TRI is working on building Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM) based EDC as the template for all JGOG studies.

All CRFs are discussed and reviewed by the study team members, (chief investigator, study coordinator(s), data manager(s), and statistician(s)) before finalization.

**eCRF usage:** Electronic Data Capture (EDC) system, Medidata Rave, is used.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Web based enrolment is available on Medidata Rave, which includes the form to check the eligibility of the patients before allowing access to the randomization form.

Randomization is done by Medidata Balance which allows randomization 24hrs via internet. Once the eligibility is confirmed and stratification factors which are determined by the protocol are entered, randomization result appears automatically on the same form.

Randomization techniques – minimization, block randomization

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:** The government recommends utilization of central IRB, however most institutions require obtaining IRB approval locally. The protocol and informed consent documents must be approved by the local IRB/IEC prior to the participation in the trial. They are annually reviewed and approved by the IRB/IEC in accordance with the applicable regulations at each institution.

**Regulatory approval:**

**National:**

Indication-directed clinical trial: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

Other than indication-directed clinical trial: Local board regulated by Japanese Ethical Guideline for Clinical Research

**Local:** Local IRB/IEC

**Adverse event reporting:** As the specifications in Japanese Ethical Guidelines as well as government notice regarding AE reporting, if unexpected serious adverse events occur, the head official of the individual participating institution must immediately report to MHLW. TRI coordinates the reporting process. In studies conducted under Advanced Medical Service System (AMSS), when the SAEs that are specified as reporting requirement under AMSS occur, site must report immediately to the study chair through TRI, then the MHLW and the Head of Regional Bureau of Health and Welfare according to the specified time frames: Within 7 days for cases resulting in death or life-threatening cases, within 15 days in cases where the occurrence of the event, incidence, and/or the conditions of onset were unexpected.

### **Study activity**

**Start up:** New studies are informed by e-mail and/or at the JGOG General Assembly held once a year. Face to face meeting is planned when budget allows.

**Monitoring:** Protocol dependent. Central monitoring is performed by TRI according to the rules specified in the SOP. On-site monitoring is performed in accordance with the monitoring plan for the trial separately specified. For all indication-directed clinical trials sponsored either by the pharmaceutical companies or the investigators themselves and the trials under AMSS, on-site monitoring including Source Document Verification is performed by TRI monitors. For the developmental therapeutic protocol sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, the on-site monitoring may be performed by Contract Research Organization that has a contract with the pharmaceutical company.

Regular monitoring reports, including reports on patient accrual, adverse events, protocol deviations and etc., are prepared by TRI twice a year from the reported data on CRFs, and submitted and reviewed by the Monitoring Committee and the Data Safety Monitoring Committee of JGOG.

**Audit:** Protocol dependent.

Audit by JGOG Audit Committee is performed according to the JGOG Quality Assurance Program Audit Manual. For the JGOG protocol the audit is performed by the members of JGOG Audit Committee. JGOG audits are conducted at the annually selected JGOG sites, basically once three year for all JGOG sites if the site's performance is acceptable. If not acceptable, the site needs to submit corrective plan and next audit is scheduled with shorter interval.

For the indication-directed trials sponsored either by the pharmaceutical companies or the investigators themselves, the participating institutions are subject of audit by the independent third party, usually by CRO.

### Promotion and recruitment

-Each study is promoted for active participation to all JGOG members at the JGOG regular meetings and announced at the JGOG web site ([www.jgog.org](http://www.jgog.org)).

-Annual meeting for business and scientific sessions for all participants is held in December.

-Disease Committee meetings are held 3 - 4 times a year. This could be good opportunities for study promotion.

- Meetings aimed for international collaboration, such as GCIG and others are held 3-4 times a year.

- New concepts are proposed by young investigators in Educational Seminar held annually (3days of seminar in August).

-Quarterly issues of JGOG newsletters inform the members about progress of all JGOG studies.

-Patient recruitment of the JGOG protocol is limited within JGOG member institutions.

-International collaboration protocol initiated by JGOG is opened to international trial groups with agreement of research collaborations.

### Group Contacts

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**Group Chair:** [Takayuki Enomoto](#), MD, PhD Niigata University Medical School 1-757, Asahimachi-dori, Chuo-ku, Niigata-city, 951-8510

**Harmonization (Operations):** Eriko Nomura, Translational Research Center for Medical Innovation, Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe, Medical Innovation Div., Project Management Group, 1-5-4, Minatojima-minamimachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo 650-0047, Japan, email: [nomura@tri-kobe.org](mailto:nomura@tri-kobe.org)

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Tatsuo Kagimura, Translational Research Center for Medical Innovation, Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe, Div. of Medical Statistics, 1-5-4, Minatojima-minamimachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo 650-0047, Japan, email: [kagimura@tri-kobe.org](mailto:kagimura@tri-kobe.org)

**Website:** <http://www.jgog.gr.jp/>

## KGOG (Korean Gynecological Oncology Group)

### Background

**Group structure:** Korean Gynecologic Oncology Group is a non-profit organization exclusively for the clinical trials in gynecological malignancies. KGOG was organized in 2002, and the Group Chairman is Soon-Beom Kang, MD, PhD. Members of the group are specialists in gynecologic oncology, pathology, radiotherapy, and statistics. KGOG is composed of 3 tumor site committees, 2 treatment modality committees, pathology, translational research, and statistics and data management committees.

The main purpose of KGOG is to establish up-to-date guidelines for the treatment of gynecologic malignancies by performing multi-center clinical trials, and to execute international collaboration trials for gynecologic malignancies. KGOG has developed 39 clinical trials so far, and is participating in GOG, JGOG/GCIG clinical trials. The administrative office of KGOG is located in Seoul, South Korea.

**Legal entity:** KGOG is a non-profit organization.

**Membership criteria:**

**Funding:** KGOG does not cover the costs related to trial conduction. The costs are mostly covered by the sponsor (either profit or non-profit) of the protocol.

**Coordinating/data centre:**

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** A study concept may be initiated by any individual member of KGOG. After consideration of feasibility and scientific importance in each tumor site committee, the protocol concepts submitted to KGOG executive board for approval. Protocol numbers are assigned with one thousand # (for cervix, vulva and vagina); two thousands # (for endometrium and GTD); three thousands # (for ovary, tube and PPC).

**Protocol development:**

**Protocol approval:**

### Data management systems

**General:** Standard forms modified for specific protocol.

**CRF and database development:** Forms reviewed internally by Tumor Site Committee members, statistician.

**eCRF usage:** Web-based CRF is under development.

Randomisation and enrolment

Randomization techniques – Study registration forms are faxed to the data center, and eligibility and stratification data are checked. Registration for KGOG protocols with confirmation after randomization sent to the investigator via fax.

Randomization – Block randomization

Centre ID: Two digit assigned number (01...99)

Patient ID: Nine digit number (Protocol number – Institution ID code - 3 digit sequencing) (e.g. 1012-01-001).

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** All approved trials are subject to the local IRB approval at each institution. All institutional IRB's are required to submit the approval certification form to the KGOG administration office before enrolling patients.

**Regulatory approval:**

**International:** CTEP, OHRP, FDA,

**National:** Ministry of Health and Welfare, MFDS

**Local/regional:** Local IRB

**Adverse event reporting:** Toxicity is assessed and reported using CTCAE version 4.0.

### Study activity

**Start up:** Following receipt of required essential documents (e.g. ethics approval, regulatory approval (where required), investigator's CV, investigator agreement).

**Monitoring:** Conducted on trials which require on site monitoring by the RA. Extensive study validation programs written for each study used to verify data and helps generate queries. Some data goes through a visual review by an RA. Study is monitored for timing of interim efficacy and/or other possible early stopping rule analyses and final analyses.

**Audit:** Once the trial is underway the KGOG may wish to carry out random audits of individual studies.

### Promotion and recruitment

**Promotion:** The studies will be promoted at the regular meetings and announced at the KGOG web site ([www.kgog.org](http://www.kgog.org)). When the protocol is ready the data secretariat will call for commitment to all possible departments.

Patients are recruited through participating KGOG member institutions. There are 5 centers approved by GOG including 4 affiliate centers.

Protocol is activated after approval by the KGOG Steering Committee for Clinical Trials and after approval by the IRB of the Coordinating Centre. Patients' accrual at each participating Centre can be made only after approval by the local IRB.

Group Meetings: Twice a year (Spring and Autumn), updates on current activity of disease sites and strategy meetings for future projects. Newsletters generated annually.

### Group Contacts

**Address:** 102-Ho, 55-5 Nonhyun-Dong, Gangnam-Gu, Seoul 135-010, Korea

**Group Chair:** Joo-Hyun Nam, MD, PhD

**Harmonization (Operations):** Jae Weon Kim, MD, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Seoul National University College of Medicine, 28 Yongon-dong, Chongno-gu, Seoul 110-744, South Korea. Phone #82 2 2072 3511, fax #82 2 762 3599, Email : [kiwksh@snu.ac.kr](mailto:kiwksh@snu.ac.kr)

**Harmonization (Statistics):** Byung-Ho Nam, Ph.D. Cancer Registration and Biostatistics Branch, Division of Cancer Control & Epidemiology, Research Institute, National Cancer Center, 111 Jungbalsan-ro, Ilsandong-gu, Goyang-si, Gyeonggi-do, 410-769, Korea. Tel. #82 31 920 2033, Fax: #82 31 920 2034: e-mail: [byunghonam@ncc.re.kr](mailto:byunghonam@ncc.re.kr)

**Website:** <http://www.kgog.org/>

## **KoIGO Trg (Kolkata Gynecological Oncology Trials and Translational Research Group)**

### **Background**

Group structure:

Legal entity:

Membership criteria:

Funding

Coordinating/data centre:

### **Study approval process**

Concept development and approval:

Protocol development:

### **Data management systems**

General:

CRF and database development:

eCRF usage:

Randomisation and enrolment:

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

Ethics approval:.

Regulatory approval:.

Adverse event reporting:

### **Study activity**

Site selection and feasibility:

Start up:

Monitoring:

Audit:.

### **Promotion and recruitment**

### **Group Contacts**

Address:

Phone:

Group Chair:

Harmonization (Operations):

Harmonization (Statistics):

Website:

## MaNGO (Mario Negri Gynecologic Oncology group)

### Background

The Mario Negri Gynecologic Oncology group (MaNGO) was formally funded in May 2006 but this collaborative group had been active in clinical gynecologic oncology for several years before. In fact, the group consolidated its network and logistics while running the ICONs studies which were conducted in very close partnership with researchers at the Medical Research Council Clinical Trial Unit, UK. The ICON1, 2, 3 and 4 trials recruited between 1991 and 2002 almost 5000 patients with ovarian cancer and the 47% of these patients were enrolled by our Italian collaborative network.

### Group structure

The MaNGO network of hospitals is mainly representative of the northern part of Italy, although there are important sites in the central and southern part of the country as well. Participating centers are either general public and private hospitals or university clinics. There is a Technical Scientific board made of 11 people (mostly clinicians involved in gynecologic cancer care) that convenes quarterly. The board's reps are elected by the MaNGO assembly and remain in charge for two years. The headquarters of the MaNGO group is at the IRCCS Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacologic Research

**Legal entity:** IRCCS Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacologic Research whose director is prof. Silvio Garattini

**Membership criteria:** MaNGO is a “working group” and any site can participate at the annual general assembly and join MaNGO's sponsored trials

**Funding:** people involved in the group management at the IRCCS Mario Negri Institute use its structure and share its facilities. Specific resources (project data manager, data managers, statistics, etc ) are allocated according to the financial resources of each specific project.

**Coordinating Centre:** The administrative office of MaNGO is located in Milan, Italy at the IRCCS Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacologic Research which is a not-for-profit biomedical research organization, established in 1961. Inside the Mario Negri Institute, MaNGO can share the resources of the Oncology Department, headed by Maurizio D'Incalci and, more specifically, of the Laboratory of Methodology for Clinical Research, headed by Valter Torri.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Concept idea can be proposed by any clinician and it is first discussed at the Scientific Board. If approved, a full protocol is developed inside the Laboratory of Methodology for Clinical Research where all relevant know-how is available. Finally, the full protocol is approved by MaNGO's scientific board

**Protocol development:** the protocol is developed inside the Laboratory of Methodology for Clinical Research.

**Protocol approval:** the full protocol is approved by MaNGO's scientific board

### Data management systems:

**General:** the Laboratory of Methodology for Clinical Research has developed and follows relevant SOPs for the data management

### CRF and database development:

A remote data capture system, named HeavyBase, was developed and validated inside the Mario Negri Institute and it is used for some of MaNGO's sponsored phase II and III clinical trials



**eCRF usage:** no more paper CRF are used at MaNGO

**Randomisation and enrolment:** HeavyBase, a peer-to-peer system is used for randomization in most of the clinical trials sponsored by MaNGO.

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:** Central and local ethical approval are required for each trial

**Regulatory approval:** First act is to send the protocol to the national authority Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco (AIFA)

**Adverse event reporting:** All SAEs are reported via EUDRAVIGILANCE

### **Study activity**

**Site selection and feasibility:** for each study a specific feasibility questionnaire is sent to the MaNGO sites and all sites that meet the required criteria are invited to participate

**Start up:** all possible procedures for trial start up are based on the available funding

**Monitoring:** all possible procedures to implement for monitoring (mostly centralized or site visits) are based on the available funding

**Audit:** no planned systematic auditing of the participant sites

### **Promotion and recruitment**

Trials Newsletters, MaNGO annual assembly and quarterly meetings of the Scientific board are the backbone to evaluate recruitment and foster participation

### **Group Contacts**

**Address:** Via La Masa 19, 20156 Milan, Italy

**Phone:** +39 03 390 14 467

**Group Chair:** Maurizio D'Incalci, MD

**Harmonization (Operations):** Roldano Fossati, MD, Elena Biagioli MSc

**Harmonization (Statistician):** Protocol specific, depending on trial Sponsor and Coordinating Center.

Website: [www.marionegri.it](http://www.marionegri.it)



## MITO (Multicenter Italian Trials in Ovarian cancer and gynecologic malignancies group)

### Background

**Group structure:** Head office of the MITO Group is at the National Cancer Institute in Naples, Italy. MITO group is a non-profit association that aims to improve cooperation in the field of Gynecologic Oncology. Members of the group are specialists in gynecology, medical oncology, radiotherapy, and general practitioner. The MITO group promotes relationship with other Italian and international associations involved in Gynecologic Oncology. Furthermore, the group acts as a promoter of experimental and clinical research in this field in Italy.

**Legal entity:** The legal entity that takes on the role of Sponsor for MITO clinical trials is the Institute that is the legal sponsor of the specific trial.

**Membership criteria:** Membership is open to anyone with an interest in gynecological cancer. Applications for membership are received by the Membership Committee, and ratified by the Board.

**Funding:** There is no central funding to the MITO group. Funding for individual trials is negotiated through the legal sponsor of the trial, and is dependent upon the type of trial.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The coordinating data centre is at the National Cancer Institute, Naples Italy, and the role may be shared with other Institutes who are legal sponsor of individual MITO trials. The coordinating center is responsible for, and provides expertise in

- Statistical design and sample size
- Protocol development
- Funding applications
- Design of CRF
- Randomisation procedures
- Data collection and data management
- Data monitoring
- Quality Assurance
- Pharmacovigilance
- Trial Management
- Analysis and reporting
- Translational research organization

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Proposals for new trials can be submitted by each of the Members of the MITO Group to the President, who forwards these new proposals to the members of the MITO Scientific Committee for Clinical Trials. All new protocols, in order to obtain the support of the MITO group, must be designed according to the current law ruling conduction of clinical trials. If the proposal is approved by the MITO Scientific Committee for Clinical Trials, MITO Group will support the study, and the protocol will be assigned a MITO Code (MITO-XX). MITO Group does not cover the costs related to trial conduction. These costs are covered by the sponsor (either profit or non-profit) of the protocol. All clerical and administrative procedures are managed by the proponent investigator, that has the role as a Study Coordinator.

**Protocol development:** MITO has a protocol template to assist with development of the protocol.

**Protocol approval:** The Institute that takes legal sponsorship of the trial is responsible for obtaining regulatory approvals.

## Data management systems

**General:** Trial-specific, based on a standard MITO format, with web-based platform CRF and database development

Forms are prepared and discussed by clinicians, data managers and statistician involved in each protocol.

**eCRF usage:** Remote data capture is used for nearly all MITO studies. Electronic CRFs are trial specific, though basic structure is similar across all MITO studies. Paper CRFs are available on the website and on request to centres.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Each participating Centre is assigned a specific Centre Code, which remains the same across all MITO protocols. Randomization / enrollment is web-based, performed by the local site Investigator or Study Coordinator.

For each protocol, a progressive code is assigned to each patient (e.g. 1, 2.. xx). On the case report forms, each patient is identified by Centre ID and Patient ID.

## Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** Independent Ethics Committee of the Coordinating Centre of each protocol and independent Ethics Committee of each participating Institution.

**Regulatory approval:** Clinical Trial Application using European directive and subsequent guidelines, to national authority Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco (AIFA)

**Adverse event reporting:** According to current EU Clinical Trial Directives. via Eudravigilance SAEs are to be reported by Investigators immediately by fax or eCRF. All SAEs are clinically reviewed and SUSARs are reported in Eudravigilance/AIFA within the 7 or 15 days, according to expedited reporting guidelines. DSURs prepared annually.

## Study activity

### Start up

**Central activation:** Protocol is activated after approval by the MITO Scientific Committee for Clinical Trials and after approval by the Ethics Committee of the Coordinating Centre. Patients' accrual at each participating Centre can be made only after approval by the local EC.

**Monitoring:** Each clinical trial has a monitoring plan in the protocol, and the level of monitoring is based on risk. All trials have centralized monitoring. On-site monitoring may be planned, and may be carried out by the coordinating center or by a CRO.

**Audit:** Systematic auditing plan for MITO centers is part of overall quality programme. Internal audit may be conducted at coordinating center (Institution), and regular or for cause auditing may occur at recruiting centers.

## Promotion and recruitment

**Promotion:** MITO activity is promoted on the MITO website ([www.mito-group.it](http://www.mito-group.it)), available in Italian and English version). The Group holds regular meetings twice yearly, with progress reports of ongoing protocols, promotion of approved protocols and discussion of new study proposals

**Recruitment:** Italian centers treating patients with ovarian cancer and gynecological malignancies. According to each specific protocol, participation is open to international participation.

## Group Contacts

**Address:** Istituto Nazionale Tumori Fondazione G. Pascale, Dipartimento di Uro-ginecologia, Via Mariano Semmola, 80131 Naples, ITALY

**Group Chair:** Sandro Pignata, MD, Ph.D, email: [s.pignata@istitutotumori.na.it](mailto:s.pignata@istitutotumori.na.it)

**GCIG representative to Executive Board:** Domenica Lorusso, MD, Ph.D.

E-mail [domenica.lorusso@policlinicogemelli.it](mailto:domenica.lorusso@policlinicogemelli.it)

**Harmonisation (Operations):** Serena Giolitto, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Largo Agostino Gemelli 8, 00168 Rome. **Harmonization (Statistics):** Protocol specific, depending on trial Sponsor and Coordinating Center.

**Website:** [www.mito-group.it](http://www.mito-group.it)

## National Cancer Research Institute UK (NCRI) and MRC CTU/ UCL CTC

### Background

**Group structure:** The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) is a UK-wide partnership between the government, charity and industry which promotes co-operation in cancer research among its member organisations.

Interest in gynaecological cancer trials is led by clinical members and the NCRI gynaecological cancer Clinical Studies Group and sub-groups.

Two main organisations undertake the management and organisation of GCIG trials sponsored in the UK, these clinical trials units (CTUs) are: the MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL (MRC CTU) and the CR UK & UCL Cancer Trials Centre (UCL CTC). Both are UKCRC Registered CTUs.

Where UK sites are recruited to GCIG trials sponsored outside UK, these CTUs act as co-ordinating centres within the UK.

**Legal entity:** The NCRI is not a legal entity; therefore sponsorship has to be obtained from relevant institutions. For non-commercial trials the institution within which the CTU resides, for example: the Medical Research Council or University College London, will undertake sponsor requirements.

**Membership criteria:** N/A

**Funding:** Each CTU receives 'core' funding to support its trial activities, and then applies for project specific funds from relevant funding bodies (predominantly charitable and academic funding bodies) to manage a particular trial.

**Coordinating/data centre:** Trial coordination and data management of GCIG trials in the UK is currently predominantly undertaken by the MRC CTU and/or the UCL CTC.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** The NCRI gynaecological clinical study group (CSG), and sub-groups may initiate and/or develop ideas for new trials. Concepts may be presented at the Annual Joint Meeting NCRI Ovarian Sub Group and SGCTG (Scottish Gynaecological Cancer Trials Group) meeting. Endometrial trial concepts are discussed at the Annual NCRI endometrial sub-group workshop.

The NCRI also hold an annual Cancer conference where new and existing trials may be presented.

Before developing a protocol, the concept must also be agreed/approved for support by the relevant review group at the CTU involved. Sponsor institutions will also undertake a review and/or risk assessment. External peer-review is required and organized by funding bodies.

**Protocol development:** Protocol development is undertaken by the Chief Investigator and multi-disciplinary Trial Management Group, which will include CTU members who would coordinate the development and ensure version control. CTUs have template protocols and SOPs related to protocol development.

**Protocol approval:** CTUs will arrange appropriate external (e.g. CPAS) and internal protocol reviews and sign off by the CI and sponsor representative.

### Data management systems

**General:** CTU data management systems are followed

**CRF and database development:** Template CRFs and database forms are available at the CTUs, and relevant SOPs are followed.

Trial data received on CRFs from sites are entered into and held in an appropriately validated database. User acceptance testing and scenario testing is carried out on a trial database before entry of live data commences.

**eCRF usage:** eCRF use is starting to become more widely used, predominantly using MACRO (off the shelf software).

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Methods may vary per trial, but will usually be by phone or efax to the relevant CTU. On line/telephone systems (IWRS/IVRS) are used for some trials.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** A single ethical approval for research in the UK is obtained through submission to a Research Ethics Committee (REC). RECs are managed by the National Health Service (NHS) Health Research Authority (HRA). <http://www.hra.nhs.uk/resources/applying-to-recs/>

All research that involves NHS patients or resources must also gain NHS permission and be approved by relevant NHS Research & Development offices.

A centralised submission portal is in place for necessary regulatory and ethical approvals – IRAS <https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/>

**Regulatory approval:** The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is the UK competent authority which reviews and provides approval for the conduct of research falling under the EU Clinical Trials Directive. The MHRA provides the Clinical Trials Authorisation (CTA) for an approved trial. <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Medicines/Licensingofmedicines/Clinicaltrials/index.htm>

**Adverse event reporting:** Sites are required to record all AEs on case report forms. In addition SAE reports (as per trial protocol) must be sent to the relevant CTU for processing and any necessary expedited reporting, to relevant ethics committee(s) and competent authority(ies)

### Study activity

**Start up:** Trial start-up is undertaken according to the CTU/sponsor's SOPs. Initiation of sites is undertaken either by on-site visit or teleconference, dependant on risk and training needs, related to the trial and to the site. Site activation is confirmed in writing by the relevant CTU acting for the sponsor.

**Monitoring:** Decisions on the type and frequency of monitoring for a trial are risk-based. The CTU involved will develop a trial monitoring plan for each trial. Monitoring usually involves a mixture of on-site and central monitoring methods. Monitoring activities are undertaken by CTU staff, third party contractors or for a GCIG trial may be delegated to another GCIG group to undertake within their country.

**Audit:** CTUs are subject to regulatory inspection, sponsor audit, and have internal audit/review systems in place. Audits of trial sites and third party suppliers etc may be undertaken by the CTUs if indicated, based on risk.

### Promotion and recruitment

Promotion of UK led GCIG endorsed trials occurs:

- On the CTU websites (see below) – and with links from cancer charity & NCRI websites
- At annual NCRN/NCRI meetings
- At annual trial specific meetings
- In trial & CTU specific newsletters
- By gynae roadshows (to promote trial in areas where recruitment is slow.)
- Through regular Trial Management Group meetings, including international collaborators

### Group Contacts

**Address:** MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL, Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology, 90 High Holborn,

2nd Floor, London, WC1V 6LJ

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**Harmonization (Statistics):** Andrew Embleton ([a.embleton@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.embleton@ucl.ac.uk))

**Websites:** <http://www.ncri.org.uk/> <http://www.ctu.mrc.ac.uk/> <http://www.ctc.ucl.ac.uk/>

## NOGGO (North-Eastern-German Society of Gynaecological Oncology)

### Background

**Group structure:** The North-Eastern-German Society of Gynaecological Oncology (NOGGO) was founded in March 1998 as an interdisciplinary and interprofessional society with the aim of improving the life expectancy and recurrence-free survival among different tumour entities, decisively under special consideration of the quality of life. Today it has just 700 members who use the continuing education offer of the NOGGO or take part actively in working groups or in trials of the NOGGO.

The executive board consists of 4 gynecological oncology specialists who meet on a regular basis.

Advisory board consisting of 14 gynecological oncologists meets at least 2 times a year to discuss new ideas for trials and to progress ongoing trials, to present ideas for new trials and to consider participation in international trials.

**Legal entity:** NOGGO is a non-profit society that can take on the role of sponsor for trials.

**Membership criteria:** Any physician, nurse or other medical staff can become a member to support the aims of NOGGO. New sites interested in participating in NOGGO trials have to complete a questionnaire to give an overview of interests, experience, site staff etc. in order to be certificated as a NOGGO-centre.

**Funding:**

**Coordinating/data centre:** The coordinating centre for all trials is the office located in Berlin.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** New concepts developed by group members and new protocols from industrial partners are reviewed and discussed by the Advisory Board. Subsequently the trial will be recommended concerning the scientific validation of the study as well as the potential for the group to participate.

**Protocol development:** The protocol will be created by the Coordinating Investigator or its designee, the central study office team and the statistician (+/- third partners) according to SOPs. Usage of checklist grants that all essential topics are included in the protocol.

**Protocol approval:** After protocol finalization submission to the Ethics Committee and Competent Regulatory Authority will be done.

### Data management systems

**General:** The cooperating CRO is responsible of collecting CRF, management of queries, SAE management, regulatory requirements, and other administrative duties.

**CRF and database development:** CRFs are reviewed by clinicians, statistics and data management.

Database testing is carried out by the respective project manager including verification of available data plausibility programs.

If eCRF is used site staff being involved in the trial usually receives access to a test database firstly.

**eCRF usage:** Protocol Specific. All NOGGO sites can use eCRF.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Checks of the main inclusion/exclusion criteria before enrolment by the respective project manager and his/her substitute → trial specific randomization at the group coordination center or at site via IVRS/IWRS. Randomization result will be send to the site via fax.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** In Germany we divide in Leading Ethics Committee and Local Ethics Committee.

The leading Ethics Committee is the EC of the German Coordinating Investigator and verifies the whole trial; exclusively taking of a decision.

Local Ethics Committees verify the qualification of the Investigators and the suitability of the local sites regarding the trial.

The leading Ethics Committee reviews and approves the Protocol, the Patient Information and Informed Consent Form, Insurance and Investigators Brochure or Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC). Favourable opinion is given for the whole trial duration, but can be withdrawn at any time.

Any Investigators being involved in a clinical trial have to be approved by their local Ethic committees before being authorized to work on study related procedures, especially obtaining informed consent, study related procedures regarding patients' safety.

**Regulatory approval:** German Competent Regulatory Authorities are the Paul-Ehrlich-Institute (PEI) or Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM). PEI/BfArM reviews and approves the Protocol, Insurance and Investigators Brochure or Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC).

Sites have to be notified to their respective regional administrative authority before the beginning of the trial.

Notification must be in place from Ethics-Committee AND from Competent Authority before a clinical trial site can be activated.

**Adverse event reporting:** SUSARs will be reported to the leading ethics committee, regulatory Authority, all investigators in case of fetal or life-threatening events within 7 days and in case of non-fetal and non-life-threatening events within 15 days.

Once per year the Development Safety Update Report (DSUR) has to be sent to leading Ethics Committee and the Competent Regulatory Authority including benefit-risk evaluation of the sponsor.

### Study activity

**Start up:** Following site initiation visit and receipt of required essential documents (e.g. Ethics approval, notification of regional administrative authority, signed contracts, investigator's CV, completed delegation log, proof of Investigator training and financial disclosures if applicable) sites are activated. Site initiation can also be done via telephone in individual trials.

**Monitoring:** Protocol dependent. Usually the cooperating CRO conducts the monitoring defined by the monitoring plan.

Tasks monitoring:

- Source data verification depending on monitoring plan
- Verify site's compliance with regulations/requirements
- Study drug accountability

A monitoring report will be send to the responsible project manager who reviews the report and initiates actions if necessary.

**Audit:** Audits by sponsor. Inspections by regional authorities

### Promotion and recruitment

- Websites [www.noggo.de](http://www.noggo.de)
- Promotion at regional meetings and education offers
- Annual Investigator meeting
- Regular meetings of the Executive Board (5 times a year) and the Advisory board (3 times a year)
- Weekly recruitment updates to Coordinating Investigator and data managers
- Trial specific newsletters (in planning)
- 

### Group Contacts



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**Harmonization (Statistics):** Dr. Rolf Richter, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Campus Virchow-Klinikum, Klinik für Frauenheilkunde, Augustenburger Platz 1, D-13353 Berlin

## NSGO-CTU (Nordic Society of Gynaecological Oncology - Clinical Trial Unit)

### Background

**Group structure:** NSGO is a non-political, non-profit society founded in 1986. The society has members from all the Nordic countries: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. Members represent all specialties involved in the treatment of cancer, surgical oncology, radiotherapy, medical oncology, pathology, physicists and basic researchers.

In 2006 NSGO-CTU (Nordic Society of Gynaecological Oncology – Clinical Trial Unit) was founded. The participation of NSGO in trials today infers both medical, juridical and economical commitments and risks. In order to secure the status of NSGO as a well recognized and reliable international trial partner NSGO founded an independent non-profit organisation with the purpose to support clinical Research in Gynaecological Cancer.

The NSGO-CTU structure consists of the NSGO-CTU Foundation Committee, NSGO-CTU Scientific Committee with the NSGO-CTU office located at Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Legal entity:** Nordisk Selskab for Gynækologisk Onkologi's Kliniske Forskningsfond

**Membership criteria:** Full membership is open to any individual in a Nordic country, who is professionally or scientifically active in the field of gynaecological cancer. Associate membership is open for individuals from outside Nordic countries. Representatives from the pharmaceutical industry cannot be members.

**Funding:** NSGO-CTU is funded by clinical trials.

**Coordinating/data centre:** The coordinating centre for all clinical trials is the NSGO-CTU office.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Every member of the society can propose new trials. The proposals are discussed within the NSGO-CTU Scientific Committee. If NSGO-CTU Scientific Committee approves the trial synopsis the trial is conducted as a NSGO trial. The NSGO-CTU takes over the responsibility to develop the trial and assist PI in all relative aspects. The proposing member is lead PI of the trial. The NSGO-CTU Medical Director negotiates the financing of the trial.

**Protocol development:** The trial is developed by the respective Investigator with support from the NSGO-CTU and reviewed by NSGO-CTU Scientific Committee in order to suggest modifications.

**Protocol approval:** After protocol finalization submission to the Ethics Committees and Competent Regulatory Authorities are done.

### Data management systems

**General:**

**eCRF and database development:** Forms are prepared and discussed by clinicians, the NSGO office and statisticians.

**eCRF usage:** Trial specific. All NSGO sites can use eCRF. NSGO-CTU uses OpenClinica enterprise version for NSGO-CTU sponsored trials.

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Trial specific.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** Each Nordic country needs separate ethical approval. Regulatory bodies: The Nordic countries except Finland have regional ethical committees. Finland has institutional committees.

**Regulatory approval:** Each Nordic country needs separate approval from Regulatory Competent Authority.

**Adverse event reporting:** NSGO-CTU office is responsible for regulatory reporting of Serious Adverse Events and SUSAR's. For most of the trials sponsored by NSGO-CTU this responsibility is outsourced to a CRO.

### Study activity

**Start up:** The NSGO-CTU Office ensures that relevant approvals from Ethic Committees and Regulatory Competent Authorities are in place before starting a trial. Usually every Nordic Country has a National Investigator contacting the relevant Ethic Committee and Regulatory Competent Authority.

**Monitoring:** For NSGO-CTU sponsored trials monitoring in NSGO countries will often be performed through the Nordic Monitoring Network (NORM) coordinated from the Danish GCP-unit in collaboration with NSGO. NSGO-CTU also collaborates with a CRO company for monitoring when trial sites are located in other European countries.

**Audit:** Trial specific

### Promotion and recruitment

The trials are promoted at the regular face to face meetings (two meetings per year) and announced at the NSGO web site ([www.nsgo.org](http://www.nsgo.org)). When the trial synopsis is accepted by NSGO-CTU Scientific Committee the NSGO office calls for commitment to all possible departments in the Nordic countries. Departments interested in participating in the trial afterwards receive a commitment form and a contract of duties and responsibilities of the Investigator and the NSGO-CTU Office.

### Group Contacts

**Address:**

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**Harmonization (Statistics):** René dePont Christensen

## PMHC (Princess Margaret Consortium)

### Background

**Group structure:** The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre is home to the Princess Margaret Consortium (PMHC), the only non-US site funded through the National Institutes of Health. Since its inception in 2001, PMHC has been responsible for 100 Phase I/II clinical trials with novel agents, and enrolment surpassing 2000 patients onto Consortium-led trials. Trials are designed and written by physicians across the consortium, providing them the opportunity to lead multi-centre trials. PMHC has been critical to the rapid enrolment of patients and to leveraging disease-specific expertise across sites which has significantly impacted on the productivity of clinical trials. The group has longstanding expertise in running and managing clinical trials across Canada.

**Legal entity:** Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

**Membership criteria:** The current PMHC affiliates span Canada with a major base and depth in Ontario. All the Canadian sites have previously worked together in other programs and projects. All centres are university-affiliated teaching centres that have extensive experience with clinical research and the conduct of multi-centre clinical trials.

**Funding:** National Cancer Institute US (NCI US), other Granting Agencies

**Coordinating/data centre:** PMHC Central Office is part of the Drug Development Program located at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Protocol concepts are able to develop from an individual idea, the result of collaboration, or are the direct result of a previous clinical trial. A proposal needs to be drafted and peer-reviewed by the applicable PMHC disease group committee to determine if the scientific rationale is strong and if it could develop into a clinical trial that could be supported by the consortium.

**Protocol development:** Protocols are developed based on a standardized template that are version controlled

**Protocol approval:** A protocol is approved once the PMHC Central Office and the PMHC Executives approve the final draft.

### Data management systems

#### General

**CRF and database development:** PMHC Central Office Study Coordinators design trial specific CRFs, that upon approval from the Program Manager, Biostats, and the Principle Investigator are submitted to the in house programmers for development of the eCRFs.

**eCRF usage:** The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre self-hosts Medidata Rave

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Randomization and patient enrollment is centralized at the PMHC Central Office. At the time of registration, the signed consent and registration checklist are required that confirms eligibility of patients, to be submitted to Central Office. If eligibility is met, a confirmation of registration with the patient's trial specific number and treatment plan is communicated back to the registering centre.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** An Institutional Ethics Board or a centralized Ethics Board can be utilized

**Regulatory approval:** Health Canada needs to issue a No Objection Letter

**Adverse event reporting:** Adverse Events that are serious, unexpected and related needs to be reported to Health Canada. A PMHC Executive Designee reviews potential Health Canada reportable events for reportability.

### Study activity

**Start up:** Each centre is activated centrally once they provide PMHC Central Office with the requested trial documentation and a local start-up meeting has been completed.

**Monitoring:** A formal data management and monitoring plan is developed for each trial in which PMHC is the lead. All quality control monitoring utilizes a targeted approach based on risk.

Data is entered by sites directly into the database using guidelines developed by PMH. Training of staff will be required at all levels to ensure understanding of tasks. A formal data management plan will be in place for the PMHC studies. The study coordinators in DDP will receive the data and perform data management activities. Queries will be produced electronically and can be efficiently tracked and managed. Data will be cleaned prior to final analysis. Quality control procedures will be in place as outlined by the data management / monitoring plan developed for each trial, as stated above. Onsite monitoring will validate the e-CRF against the source data.

There is a Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for all clinical trials run by the PMHC. The Board consists of three experts in the area of the study diseases and the members are completely unrelated to any clinical trials. The statistician provides the Board all safety data and the Board convenes regularly and reviews the progress of all trials.

**Audit:** A formal auditing plan will be developed for trials lead by PMHC through the GCIC. It will take into account specific quality control measures that will be reviewed: i) On-site monitoring to perform checks on source data to confirm congruency with the data collected in the electronic CRFs ; ii) Reviewing staff adherence to data management SOPs; and iii) Cross checking training records to online training, site delegation lists.

### Promotion and recruitment

#### Group Contacts

**Address:** Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, 610 University Avenue, Toronto Ontario Canada M5G2M9

**Email:** drugdevelopmentprogram@uhn.ca

**Website:** NA

**Clinicians:** Dr. Amit Oza

**Harmonization (Operations):** Chantale Blattler / Smitha Udagani

**Harmonization (Statistics):** NA

## RTOG (Radiation Therapy Oncology Group)

### Background

**Group structure:** The Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) is a national clinical cooperative group created for the purpose of conducting radiation therapy research and cooperative clinical investigations. The group originated under the direction of Dr Simon Kramer in 1968 and has grown considerably since the activation of its first study in 1968. The Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, under its multi- institutional umbrella, has activated 300 protocols and has accrued a total of about 60,000 patients to cooperative group studies.

**Legal entity:**

**Membership criteria:**

**Funding:**

**Coordinating/data centre:**

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Concepts can be submitted by any member. Concepts are reviewed by the Gyn steering committee and discussed at the semi-annual meetings. Appropriate statistics hypotheses are generated. Concepts are then forwarded for RTOG group wide approval via the RTOG steering committee.

**Protocol development:** Principal Investigator, disease site concept, research Strategies team (RTOG) group chair, deputy chair, physicians, statisticians, protocol development associates, data managers (Research Associates) and dosimetrist to review initial concept which includes eligibility criteria

**Protocol approval:**

### Data management systems

#### General

**CRF and database development:** Forms reviewed internally by Gynecologic disease site team members consisting of (2) research associates, a statistician, a dosimetrist and medical forms designer.

**eCRF usage:** RTOG designed clinical database and automated validation system. Form specific validations created by research associates and statistician. Forms available on RTOG web page.

**Randomisation and enrolment:**

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** Informed consent: Protocol sample, mandatory elements

**Regulatory approval:**

**Adverse event reporting:** CTC v.2- CTC CAE v.3.0, RTOG/EORTC Late Morbidity Scoring Scheme, mandatory ADEERS reporting, CCOP-Med watch required

### Study activity

**Start up:** The protocol must be approved by the IRB, RTOG steering committee, and NCI

**Monitoring:**

**Audit:**

### Promotion and recruitment

The studies are promoted at semi-annual meetings. Occasionally advertised in RTOG publications.

Recruitment: RTOG member institutions in USA and Canada.

## Group Contacts

Address:

Phone:

Group Chair:

Harmonization (Operations):

Harmonization (Statistician): Kathryn Winter

Website:

## **SAKK - pending**

### **Background**

**Group structure:**

**Legal entity:**

**Membership criteria:**

**Funding**

**Coordinating/data centre:**

### **Study approval process**

**Concept development and approval:**

**Protocol development:**

### **Data management systems**

**General:**

**CRF and database development:**

**eCRF usage:**

**Randomisation and enrolment:**

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval:**

**Regulatory approval:**

**Adverse event reporting:**

### **Study activity**

**Start up:**

**Monitoring:**

**Audit:**

### **Promotion and recruitment**

### **Group Contacts**

**Address:**

**Group Chair:**

**Harmonization (Operations):**

**Harmonization (Statistics): Website:**



## SGOG (Shanghai Gynecologic Oncology Group)

### Background

**Group structure:** Shanghai Gynecologic Oncology Group (Shanghai GOG, SGOG) came into existence in 2009. The missions are creating evidence of the new standard care for ovarian cancer as well as other gynecologic malignancies by performing high quality clinical trials, and executing international collaboration trials for gynecologic malignancies. Physician-initiating phase 2 trials are the main task during the first decade.

SGOG is now led by trial principal investigators and prominent gynecologic oncologists, with Steering Committee (Executive Board, Mentor Board), Ovarian Cancer Committee, and Endometrial Cancer Committee.

The administrative office of SGOG is located in Shanghai, China.

### Legal entity:

**Membership criteria:** Steering committee does a complete evaluation of the new site which is interested in participating in SGOG trials. The evaluation includes the clinical practices, site staff, experience in conducting clinical trials, etc.

If the sites fulfill all requirements they are invited to participate in SGOG clinical trials. They would receive a SGOG Site ID as soon as they enroll the first patient into a SGOG trial.

**Funding:** There is no special funding on SGOG organization. Now for the two ongoing clinical trials in SGOG, funding depends on each protocol.

**Coordinating Centre:** The coordinating/data centre is located in Shanghai.

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Members of the SGOG group are encouraged to present new concepts. The presented new protocols would be discussed by the Executive Board, Mentor Board. And then considering the scientific validity and feasibility the committee makes a recommendation. If the proposal is accepted, any site which is eligible for conducting the trial in the SGOG group could participate in the study.

**Protocol development:** According to the standard operating procedures, the protocol will be created by the main investigators who present the new concepts, as well as approved by the executive board. The statisticians participate in trial design on statistical analysis.

**Protocol approval:** Should be approved by local Academic Committee and Ethics Committee.

### Data management systems

**General:** SGOG data management systems are under construction. We are collecting the information of CRF according to the clinical trial protocols.

### CRF and database development:

#### eCRF usage:

**Randomisation and enrolment:** If the subjects in line with the inclusion/exclusion criteria, sign the informed consents, fill in the screening form, and then randomization.

Randomization result will be sent to each site via fax.

### Ethics and regulatory considerations

**Ethics approval:** Local Ethics committee

**Regulatory approval:**

**Adverse event reporting:** The toxicities are evaluated by CTCAE version 4.0. All the SAEs will be reported to the local EC within 24 hours. And investigators in each institution will be aware of by faxed.

### Study activity

#### Site selection and feasibility:

**Start up:** Following receipt of required essential documents (e.g. ethics approval, regulatory approval (where required), investigator's CV, investigator agreement).

**Monitoring:** Each clinical trial is monitored by the data managers and site chair in local site. And they are overviewed by the executive committee once every two weeks.

**Audit:** Systematic audit plan for SGOG is under development. Two ongoing clinical trials of SGOG are audited by Local Ethics committee.

### Promotion and recruitment

### Group Contacts

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**Website:**

## SGCTG (Scottish Gynaecological Cancer Trials Group)

### Background

**Group structure:** The Scottish Gynaecological Cancer Trials Group is a group of individuals involved in the research and treatment of gynaecologic cancers.

**Legal entity:** The University of Glasgow and Greater Glasgow Health Board are the legal entities which take on the role of sponsor for clinical trials conducted by SGCTG and coordinated by the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, Glasgow.

**Membership criteria:** N/A

**Funding:** Funding for individual trials tends to be from competitive grant applications to funding bodies in UK (e.g Cancer Research UK, MRC etc) or from industry depending on trial.

**Coordinating/Data Centre:** The Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) Glasgow is the coordinating centre. The CTU provides expertise in the design, management and analysis of clinical trials, including the following areas:

- Statistical design and sample size collection
- Protocol development
- Funding applications
- Design of CRF
- Randomisation
- Data collection and data management
- Data monitoring
- Quality Assurance and Pharmacovigilance
- Trial Management
- Analysis and reporting

### Study approval process

**Concept development and approval:** Concepts/proposals for new studies are submitted to the SGCTG protocol review committee (PRC) for review. The committee consists of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Tumour Site Coordinators (ovarian, cervix, endometrium, vulval/vaginal/rare tumour, biological), Statistician, Clinical Trial Coordinator, Non-clinical scientist and pathologist.

Once a concept/proposal approved in principal by the PRC (for scientific merit and feasibility) it will be presented to SGCTG members.

**Protocol development:** The CTU has a clinical trial protocol template, using this template ensures all the essential elements are included in the protocol to meet GCP requirements.

**Protocol approval:** Protocol reviewed and approved by Trial Management Group prior to submission for ethics and regulatory approval.

### Data management systems

**General:** The CTU has an IT department which consists of 4 computer programmers and 1 computer manager. The IT Department work closely with the trial team (Project Manager, Statistician and Clinical Trial Coordinator).

**CRF and database development:** CRFs are designed by Project Manager from library of template forms and adapted according to needs of the trial. CRFs are reviewed by trial team (Chief Investigator, Statistician, Computer Manager and Clinical Trial Coordinator).

Forms are programmed by Computer Manager/ Computer Programmer on ORACLE database with validation checks. Checked by Statistician, Project Manager/Clinical Trial Coordinator.

**eCRF usage:** The CTU has started to use MACRO from 2018, all future studies co-ordinated by CTU will have eCRFs .

**Randomisation and enrolment:** Following completion of study registration form (eligibility and stratification data), randomizations/registration can be done via telephone, fax or web (dependent on study) to the CTU. Computer based randomization is performed using minimization method. Following registration/randomization email confirmation of randomization/registration is sent to site.

### **Ethics and regulatory considerations**

**Ethics approval: (UK):** A single ethical approval for research in the UK is obtained through submission to a Research Ethics Committee (REC). RECs are managed by the National Health Service (NHS) Health Research Authority (HRA). The REC review and approve the clinical trial protocol, patient information sheet/consent form, GP letter and other relevant study documentation.

Annual progress and development safety update reports (DSUR) require to be submitted annually to the REC. All research that involves NHS patients or resources must also gain NHS permission and be approved by relevant NHS Research & Development offices.

A centralised submission portal is in place for necessary regulatory and ethical approvals – IRAS /

All research that involves NHS patients or resources must also gain NHS permission and be approved by relevant NHS Research & Development offices.

**Regulatory approval:** The regulatory body/competent authority in the UK is the Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA). For any study involving an investigational medicinal product (IMP) a clinical trial authorization (CTA) is required from the MHRA to conduct the trial.

Development safety update reports (DSUR) require to be submitted annually to the MHRA.

**Adverse event reporting:** Pharmacovigilance for studies the SGCTG are the lead group will in general be managed by Pharmacovigilance Department of CTU.

Serious Adverse Events (SAE) require to be reported by sites to the CTU within 24 hours of becoming aware of the event.

Reporting of Serious Unexpected Serious Adverse Reaction (SUSAR):

Expedited reporting of all SUSARs is required to the MHRA and any other appropriate regulatory authorities, main research ethics committee, Principal Investigators at trial sites, the trial sponsor and pharmaceutical company (where applicable):

- Fatal or life threatening SUSARs require to be reported within 7 days of the CTU receiving the initial report. Any additional information requires to be reported within eight days of sending the first report.
- All other SUSARs require to be reported within 15 days of the CTU receiving the initial report.

### **Study activity**

**Start up:** Investigator meeting (if trial budget allows). Site Activation/ Initiation - prior to activation of site to recruitment sites require to return essential documentation pertaining to site and are required to participate in site initiation to ensure compliance with protocol and allow training on study procedures and data collections method. This can be done via a teleconference between CTU and appropriate site staff or via accessing on line initiation slides from CTU's website.

**Monitoring:** On site monitoring performed by CTU monitoring team, the level of on -site monitoring performed determined by risk assessment of each trial and monitoring budget available for trial.

Central monitoring performed to check for compliance with protocol, data consistency, missing data and timing.

**Audit:** According to audit plans of CTU. In addition studies may be subject to inspection and audit by study sponsor and other regulatory bodies i.e. MHRA to ensure adherence to GCP.

### Promotion and recruitment

SGCTG Meetings

Annual Joint Meeting between NCRI and SGCTG

National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) meetings

Trial Newsletters

Trial Management Group (TMG) for each trial oversees recruitment for trial.

CTU website

### Group Contacts

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