

WA Health Translation Network
Research Collaboration to COVID-19
Advisory Group
Minutes
Thursday 30 April 2020, 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Via Zoom

Attendees: Gary Geelhoed, Daniel Fatovich, Darren Gibson, Graham Hillis, Jim Flexman, Stephen Stick, David Morrison, Chris Reid, Toby Richards, Debbie Turner.

1. Welcome and update

Gary Geelhoed commented that given the relatively low number of COVID-19 cases, and this collaboration has already made successful contributions (including the research grant funding and setting up infrastructure), it would be an opportunity to move forward with other innovative research prospects.

It was decided that a one page document would be developed to capture the Advisory Group member's discussion, which is summarised below. An opportunity to see what the common areas of interests are.

Telethon Kids Institute (Stephen Stick)

- The WHO has produced a template for studies that look at transmission within households. This is important because they represent a mini-community. We could learn a lot and discover interventions.
- The Telethon Kids Institute initially embarked on the use of Interferon in the CoCo trial as there are a number of similar trials (based on the WHO template) across the country that we could use and amalgamate into an adaptive platform which is being championed by Tom Snelling.
- Part of our efforts here in WA should be considering the exit strategy and perhaps detection is not enough.
- Enterprise Hub developed at Telethon Kids Institute.

COVID Research Response (Toby Richards)

- The CRR platform is very flexible.
- Developed a pathway through the PathWest system then biobanking the samples accordingly. Governance is sorted now (similar to Raine and Busselton studies). Includes options for e-consent by scanning QR code and/or url link. Patient data is directly uploaded onto a redcap platform.

PathWest (Jim Flexman)

- With regards to the CoCo protocol, the index case will be in isolation at home and a visit to patient's homes to collect samples will be required (study size for WA is approx. 260 households. X 4-5 visits over 1 month period with half randomised).
- PathWest currently have a domiciliary service, allowing capture of data at a patient's home. However not on the scale required for the CoCo protocol.

2. Funding

Gary Geelhoed noted that the announcement of the Research Grants is imminent.

Anticipating a response from Lotterywest, following their Board meeting.

A funding document, DETECT, has been submitted to the WA Department of Health.

3. Next Meeting

A meeting of the Advisory Group will be scheduled for Thursday 7 May.