

Minutes
Research Subgroup of Expert Advisory Group
 31 March 2020, 4pm (by telecall)

Present: Colm Bergin (Co-Chair), Cliona O’Farrelly (Co-Chair), Teresa Maguire, Mark Ferguson, Mairéad O’Driscoll, Ana Terres
 (Apologies - Siobhán O’Sullivan)

ITEM	Discussion	ACTIONS
1	Minutes from previous meeting were agreed without edit	
2	<p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Ana Terres, Head of Research & Evidence in the HSE was welcomed for her first meeting - CB noted that the representative from the VP Research of the Universities would be clarified in advance of the next meeting - Possible representation from Northern Ireland was discussed 	Once clarified, TM to invite Universities rep to the subgroup mailing list
3	MoD/TM gave an update on work underway to deliver a dedicated National Research Ethics Committee to provide an expedited review mechanism for all COVID-19-related research. Announcement to follow at weekend	
4	<p>Clinical Trials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CB acknowledged SOS for securing approval at the most recent NPHE meeting for Ireland’s to participate in the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial (relevant paper generated by TM has previously been circulated to the subgroup and to EAG). - CB noted that he had contacted Elaine Breslin (HPRA) and Fionnuala Keane (CRCI) to support the group in their work on clinical trials - CB noted that Ireland was involved in parallel discussions around EU procurement of drugs –the same 4 drugs included in the SOLIDARITY Trial (although no direct relationship) - MOD noted that HRB had been contacted about participation in the UK RECOVERY Community Trial (and asked about appropriate mechanism for deciding best approach for Ireland to decide on priority trials) - MF suggested that a broad framework/roadmap would be useful to assist in this regard, including (1) existing licensed drugs (2) new IMPs and (3) other. 	<p>TM to work with International Unit in the DoH to initiate formal engagement with the WHO</p> <p>Approach to advising on prioritised trials for Ireland to be discussed at next meeting/s</p>
5	<p>COF updated the group on discussions taking place on issue of testing (including diagnosis, serology, convalescent plasma, screening pregnant women)- A paper will be produced setting out an analysis and recommendations for the EAG</p> <p>TM noted that it is important to ensure that this team included membership from the service side as this subgroup needs to ensure a national coordinated and aligned approach.</p>	Paper to be produced for review the subgroup

6	CB noted the importance of a communication to research stakeholders about the work of this subgroup and other NPHEP research-related initiatives. Members noted that only important to communicate when we have something done or something to say	For further discussion-
7	Agreed that need to focus on research infrastructures at next meeting	For further discussion-

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 3 April at 4pm (Telecall)