NHS
Health Research Authority
NRES Committee North East - Newcastle & North Tyneside 1
TEDCO Business Centre
Room 002
Rolling Mill Road

16 May 2012

Institute of Cellular Medicine
4th Floor, William Leech Building Newcastle University
Framlington Place
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH

Dear Professor

Study title: Rituximab for the Treatment of Fatigue in Primary Biliary Cirrhosis
REC reference: 12/NE/0095
Protocol number: 5997
EudraCT number: 2012-000145-12

Thank you for your letter of 23 April 2012, responding to the Committee's request for further information on the above research and submitting revised documentation.

The further information has been considered on behalf of the Committee by the Vice-Chair.

Confirmation of ethical opinion

On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to confirm a favourable ethical opinion for the above research on the basis described in the application form, protocol and supporting documentation as revised, subject to the conditions specified below.

Ethical review of research sites

NHS sites

The favourable opinion applies to all NHS sites listed in the application, subject to management permission being obtained from the NHS/HSC R&D office prior to the start of the study (see "Conditions of the favourable opinion" below).

Non-NHS sites

Conditions of the favourable opinion

The favourable opinion is subject to the following conditions being met prior to the start of the study.

Management permission or approval must be obtained from each host organisation prior to he start of the study at the site concerned.

Management permission ("R&D approval") should be sought from all NHS organisations involved in the study in accordance with NHS research governance arrangements.

Guidance on applying for NHS permission for research is available in the Integrated Research Application System or at http://www.rdforum.nhs.uk.

Where a NHS organisation's role in the study is limited to identifying and referring potential participants to research sites ("participant identification centre"), guidance should be sought from the R&D office on the information it requires to give permission for this activity.

For non-NHS sites, site management permission should be obtained in accordance with the procedures of the relevant host organisation.

Sponsors are not required to notify the Committee of approvals from host organisations

Clinical trial authorisation must be obtained from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

The sponsor is asked to provide the Committee with a copy of the notice from the MHRA, either confirming clinical trial authorisation or giving grounds for non-acceptance, as soon as this is available.

It is the responsibility of the sponsor to ensure that all the conditions are complied with before the start of the study or its initiation at a particular site (as applicable).

Approved documents

The final list of documents reviewed and approved by the Committee is as follows:

Document	*Version*	*Date*
Covering Letter	Professor David Jones	06 March 2012
GP/Consultant Information Sheets	1.0	20 February 2012
Investigator CV	Professor David Jones	02 February 2012
Investigator CV	Professor David Jones	23 April 2012
Other: Summary of Product Characteristics	Rituximab	10 January 2012
Other: GCP Certificate	Professor David Jones	10 March 2009
Other: Newcastle University Indemnity Confirmation Letter	Kelly Lovelock	01 February 2012
Other: EME Funding Award Confirmation Letter	Lucy Knight, Program Manager	24 January 2012
Other: Department of Health Subvention Award Confirmation Letter	Trudi Simmons, Senior Manager	08 December 2011
Other: Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Treatment Costs Confirmation Email	Gary Ford	19 December 2011
Other: Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust SOP 13	2.0	01 August 2009
Participant Consent Form	1.0	20 February 2012
Participant Consent Form	2.0 (Clean and Tracked Changes)	23 April 2012
Participant Information Sheet	1.0	20 February 2012
Participant Information Sheet	2.0 (Clean and Tracked Changes)	23 April 2012
Protocol	1.0	20 February 2012
Protocol	2.0 (Clean and Tracked Changes)	23 April 2012
Questionnaire: Validated Questionnaire: PBC40		

Questionnaire: Validated Questionnaire: PROMIS HAQ		
Questionnaire: Validated Questionnaire: COGFAIL		
Questionnaire: Validated Questionnaire: ESS		
Questionnaire: Validated Questionnaire: OGS		
Questionnaire: Validated Questionnaire: HADS		
REC application	IRAS Version 3.4, 90909/300787/1/993	07 March 2012
Response to Request for Further Information	Professor David Jones	23 April 2012
Sample Diary/Patient Card	Fatigue Diary, Version 1.0	20 February 2012

Statement of compliance

This Committee is recognised by the United Kingdom Ethics Committee Authority under the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004, and is authorised to carry out the ethical review of clinical trials of investigational medicinal products.

The Committee is fully compliant with the Regulations as they relate to ethics committees and the conditions and principles of good clinical practice.

The Committee is constituted in accordance with the Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees and complies fully with the Standard Operating Procedures for Research Ethics Committees in the UK.

After ethical review

Reporting requirements

The attached document *"After ethical review – guidance for researchers"* gives detailed guidance on reporting requirements for studies with a favourable opinion, including:

- Notifying substantial amendments
- Adding new sites and investigators
- Notification of serious breaches of the protocol
- Progress and safety reports
- Notifying the end of the study

The NRES website also provides guidance on these topics, which is updated in the light of changes in reporting requirements or procedures.

Feedback

You are invited to give your view of the service that you have received from the National Research Ethics Service and the application procedure. If you wish to make your views known please use the feedback form available on the website.

Further information is available at National Research Ethics Service website > After Review

12/NE/0095	Please quote this number on all correspondence

With the Committee's best wishes for the success of this

project Yours sincerely

Vice Chair

Email:

Enclosures: "After ethical review – guidance for researchers"