Infectious Diseases Labs

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Prof Nick Paton

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Monday, 13 March 2023
2:00pm to 3:00pm (SGT)

Venue: Immunos Level 5 Diversity room

The TRUNCATE-TB trial

For more than four decades, the global standard treatment for drug-susceptible pulmonary tuberculosis has been a 6-month rifampicin-based regimen. This treatment has cured more than 95% of persons with tuberculosis in the context of clinical trials but has underperformed in national treatment programs, in which long-term adherence is difficult for some persons and resource constraints limit the provision of adherence support. The unsatisfactory outcomes associated with standard treatment have contributed to the ongoing failure to meet global tuberculosis targets and to the generation of drug resistance. Exploration of new treatment approaches is essential.

In this talk I will describe the design, main findings and ongoing work of the TRUNCATE-TB trial, that sought to define a new treatment paradigm for drug -susceptible TB. The trial investigated a treatment strategy for tuberculosis of giving 8-weeks of initial treatment, extended for up to 4 weeks for those with persistent clinical disease; and with post-treatment follow-up and retreatment for those who relapse (the minority). The trial enrolled 674 participants across Asia and Africa, and randomised them to receive standard (6-month) treatment arm or 4 strategy arms that had a different initial 8-week, 5-drug regimens; and assessed clinical, patient-centred and programme-relevant outcomes over 96 weeks' follow up. The findings indicate that this novel strategy has the potential to change the way that TB clinical trials are conducted and that people with TB are managed in the future.

Prof. Nicholas Paton trained in Medicine and Infectious Diseases in Cambridge, Sydney and London, and in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. From 1997 to 2005 he worked as Head of Department at the National HIV Referral Centre in Singapore and, in addition to clinical care responsibilities, developed a Centre for Research in HIV and Communicable Diseases. From 2006 to 2011 he worked at the UK MRC Clinical Trials Unit where he was the Chief Investigator of large HIV treatment trials such as PIVOT (a trial of a PI-monotherapy strategy done at 45 clinical sites in the UK); and EARNEST (testing options for second-line therapy in over 1200 patients in 5 countries in sub-Saharan Africa).

He currently holds a joint appointment as Professor of Infectious Diseases at the National University of Singapore and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is the Chief Investigator of the NADIA trial (comparing dolutegravir with darunavir and comparing maintenance of tenofovir versus switching to zidovudine in second-line therapy, done in 7 sites in Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe) and the scientific lead of the CARES trial (comparing long acting cabotegravir/rilpivirine with standard combination ART at 8 sites in Uganda, Kenya and South Africa). In Singapore he leads a programme of TB trials focused on trials of host-directed therapies for TB and exploring novel TB trial outcome measures; and is the Chief Investigator on the TRUNCATE-TB trial (a strategy trial of 2 months of treatment for drug-susceptible TB done across a network of 18 sites in Asia and Africa).

Webinar is open to all. No registration required

Questions? Contact us at **seminars@idlabs.a-star.edu.sg**

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