

PRESS RELEASE

Paris – 21 April 2021

Adapting clinical trials on the go – International Clinical Trials Day 2021

ECRIN hosts its annual event, International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD), on May 20th 2021 and this year's theme is *Platform trials: shift in testing, treatment and collaboration*. ICTD commemorates the start of the landmark clinical trial, led by James Lind on sailors with scurvy, 20 May 1747. Having laid the foundation for modern clinical research, ECRIN salutes this initiative by addressing a new topic in clinical research every year.

ICTD was launched in 2005 by ECRIN, whose mission is to support multinational clinical research in Europe. ICTD brings together health policy actors, health authorities, clinical researchers, health professionals, patients and citizens from Europe, and beyond to discuss issues related to multinational clinical trials.

ICTD this year will be a virtual event that will run from 10:00 to 16:00 CEST and is free and open to all. Registration is open on the ECRIN website: <https://ecrin.org/events/ictd2021>.

Platform trials

Platform trials, sometimes known as adaptive platform trials, allow a multitude of different treatment options (arms) to be compared with a single control (arm). They enable ineffective arms to be stopped after an interim analysis and new treatment arms to be added. To date, they have been used principally in the field of oncology and more recently infectious diseases. They represent the clinical approach selected by the European Commission to find a treatment for COVID-19.

This new trial format raises many questions and changes our approach to conducting clinical trials and testing for appropriate treatments. Through this online conference, ECRIN hopes to help answer some of the following questions: What are the underlying objectives of a platform trial? Which parameters must be considered in the design, statistical plan and data management? How should one address regulatory and ethical issues as well as the involvement of patients? What types of management, economic and governance concerns may be encountered when we use this trial model?

ICTD 2021 Agenda

The draft agenda includes opening comments from Barbara Kerstiens (Research & Innovation DG, European Commission) and a keynote intervention on the power of large simple trials, from Marion Mafham of the RECOVERY trial. Three other platform trials will be discussed in the morning session and will highlight certain particularities including the functioning of multi-domain trials, necessary considerations when developing a platform trial, and recommendations on operational challenges. The lunch break will provide an opportunity for the different stakeholders to network virtually.

The afternoon will open with a session to address how platform trials can affect patients and the research team. This will be followed by a panel session that will focus on the place of platform trials in Europe. This session will address questions related to data management, regulatory and ethical issues as well as the management and governance of such trials. Before closing the event there will also be the opportunity to learn how the EMA Clinical Trial InformationSystem (CTIS) platform, when operational, can be applied in the context of platform trials.

The scientific advisory board of this year's event includes experts from three of ECRIN's national scientific partners (CZECRIN, HRB-CRCI & SCTO).

About ECRIN

ECRIN is the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network, a public, non-profit organisation that focuses on academic-sponsored multinational clinical trials as well as clinical trials initiated by SMEs. It provides sponsors and investigators with advice, management services and tools to navigate Europe's fragmented health and legal systems on clinical trials. ECRIN has national scientific partners in 12 countries covering more than 350 Million citizens. Multi-country clinical trials mean greater access to patients, resources, and expertise, and, in turn, faster and potentially more robust results.