

EULAR Lupus Nephritis Trial Network Study Group

Goal

The mission of the Lupus Nephritis Trial Network (LNTN) is to improve outcomes for patients with lupus nephritis through: (1) the conduct of clinical trials designed to prevent chronic kidney disease and end-stage kidney failure, and (2) the development of clinical trial methodologies that improve and simplify the assessment of therapeutic agents.

Philosophy

The LNTN will focus, but not exclusively, on investigator-initiated projects of high promise that are unlikely to be the subject of industry-sponsored trials. Trials that might fit this description include, for example: (1) comparative effectiveness trials; (2) combination therapy utilizing agents from different manufacturers; (3) studies of non-proprietary agents; (4) trials involving subsets of patients; and (5) studies involving long-term follow-up.

Other related activities to which the group could make important contributions include, but would not be limited to: (1) involvement in selected industry-sponsored trials; (2) development and validation of classification criteria; (3) mechanistic studies attached to clinical trials; (4) biomarker evaluation, and (5) observational/epidemiologic studies.

Guiding Principles

1. Quality – First and foremost, excellence in the quality of all aspects of LNTN trials (trial design, enrollment, clinical care, mechanistic studies, patient safety, data collection, analysis and interpretation, etc.)
2. Inclusivity – Broad geographic and multi-disciplinary engagement of qualified investigators from relevant clinical and research areas.
3. Shared Decision-Making – Commitment to an agreed upon process for decision-making regarding selection of projects, leadership, structure, etc.
4. Shared Credit and Opportunities – Mechanisms to insure credit and publication opportunities for all contributors.
5. Career Development – Advancement and leadership opportunities for early and mid-career investigators in both the organizational structure and the implementation and publication of clinical trials to maintain a cadre of well trained, committed investigators.

European Branch of the LNTN and EULAR

The European Branch of the LNTN consists of an Executive Committee (Frédéric Houssiau – Chair, David Jayne, Liz Lighthstone, Ronald van Vollenhoven, Alberto Martini and Ricard Cervera) and a Project Review Committee (Loïc Guillevin – Chair, David D’Cruz, Gian-Domenico Sebastiani, Vladimir Tessar, Gabriella Moroni and Matthias Schneider). So far, the network counts more than 40 European members. The study group is clearly open to any new applicant who is interested in joining and agrees with the goal, philosophy and guiding principles of the LNTN.