Welcome to the NETT Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trials
Neurological Emergency Treatment Trials Network

Overview of the network

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Mission

The mission of the Neurological Emergencies Treatment Trials (NETT) Network is to improve outcomes of patients with acute neurological problems through innovative research focused on the emergent phase of patient care.
Vision

NETT will engage clinicians and providers at the front lines of emergency care to conduct large, simple multi-center clinical trials to answer research questions of clinical importance. The NETT structure will be utilized to achieve economies of scale enabling cost effective, high quality research.
Overall Network Concept

- Phase 3 clinical trials only
- Hub and Spoke Network
- Separate awards for:
  - CCC
  - SDMC
  - Hubs
- NINDS funding only for infrastructure
- Specific study funding must be secured
- NETT is an “open” network
Design for the future
Large simple trial designs

• Streamlined protocols
• Collect only essential data (short case report forms)
• High enrollment – lower per-patient costs
Design for the future
Emphasis on intervention

• Focus on phase III intervention trials
• Patient-oriented readily-applicable results
• Diverse enrollment (patients & practice environments)
Design for the future

Consent issues

• Exception to informed consent for emergency research
• Optimize methods that respect human subjects
• Dedicate network resources to facilitate local efforts
• Help develop centralized IRB review
Guidelines for NETT Trials

- Study an emergent condition best conducted in the emergency care setting with the primary intervention being delivered in the prehospital or emergency phase of treatment.
- The study should have a patient oriented primary outcome.
- The study should be “simple” in design with clearly defined endpoints and gather only essential data to answer the scientific question.
- The study should not be pilot study.
- Have sample sizes amenable to being conducted in a system of eleven hubs and their spokes (if needed).
- Be phase III or late phase II interventional treatment or health services trials.
- Be designed such that the results are easily translated into clinical practice.
Study Selection

Investigator Initiated Studies

• Investigator Initiated Studies
  – Incentives and Limitations
  – Application Process

• Industry Sponsored Studies
  – Network / Investigator Design
Study Selection
Investigator Initiated Studies

• Incentives
  – Investigator receives the trial award
  – Scientific control, credit, authorship preserved
  – Infrastructure already established

• Limitations
  – Fewer funds stay at investigators institution
  – Commitment to stay within the network
Study Selection
Investigator Initiated Studies

• Process
  – NETT Trial Guidelines
  – Clinical Trial Subcommittee & NETT-AG
  – Administrative Consultation
  – Submission for Scientific Review
Investigator prepares clinical protocol summary

NINDS Clin. Trial Subcomm

NETT Internal Review Steering Comm

NAG

PI-NETT Presubmission collaboration

NETT PI confirms

Investigator prepares RO1

NINDS Council

Scientific Peer Review
Study Selection
Industry Sponsored Studies

• Network / Investigator Design
  – Scientific Control
  – Shared Economies of Scale
  – No Direct Subsidy
  – NETT-AG solicits scientific review
Grant Review process

• Special Emphasis Panel
  – Have continuity of review process
  – Familiar with NETT guidelines
  – Add experts in content area
  – Sometimes leads to longer process
Publications

• Overall NETT Publications committee
  – Exec Committee
  – For publications not associated with a trial

• Publications committee for each trial
  – Chaired by the trial PI
  – Members from EC, Hubs, SDMC
  – All publications related to the clinical trial
  – Includes substudies or ancillary projects
NETT Organizational Structure
Leadership Administration
Barsan Lowenstein
- Bylaws, Contracts, Budgets, Compliance, Reports, Coordination of Units, Promotion of network within EM and Neurology communities
- Liaison to NAG & Scientific Program Director

Trial Management
Morgenstern
- Trial Solicitation, Scientific Review, Publications, Clinical Translation Unit.
- Liaison to Trial Investigators and NSD-K

Site Management
Pancioli
- Recruitment, Training, Certification, Screening, Enrollment, Monitoring,
- Liaison to Hub investigators

Study Operations
Silbergleit
- MOP, Human Subjects Protection, Outcome Assessment, Centralized Data, Telemedicine,
- Liaison to SDMC and DSMB
Data Management
V. Durkalski, C. Dillon

- Data processing
- Data query generation and monitoring
- Data validation
- Site contact
- Training
- Report generation
- Archiving

Statistics
Y. Palesch, V. Durkalski

- Protocol design
- SAP development
- DSMB report generation
- Analyses

WebDCU™
W. Zhao

- Database development
- PM tools development
- Central randomization
- Maintenance
NINDS

Scientific Guidance
- Robin Conwit, MD
  Scientific Program Director
- Peter Gilbert, PhD
  Scientific Guidance-SDMC

Administrative
- Scott Janis, PhD
  Administrative Program Director
- Gavin Wilkom
  Funding Management

Liaison
- NINDS Leadership
- NETT-Advisory Group
- NETT DSMB

Scientific leadership
Promote the mission of the NINDS
Identify needs & develop new initiatives

Coordinate Funding
Grants Management
HUB COMPLEXES

Hubs

- Develop operational plans
- Patient recruitment, treatment, and follow-up
- Complete and accurate data collection
- Participate in writing manuscripts
- Adhere to a common study protocol for each trial
- Attend training and investigator meetings
- Protect human subjects
- Ensure adequate representation
- Assist data audits and other quality control procedures
- Provide research infrastructure & monitoring of spokes

Spokes

- Participate in studies requiring larger sample size
Steering Committee

• Activities
  – Consider modifications and approve final versions of protocols and operations
  – Supervise overall execution of the trial
  – Provide input on generating and approving study policies
  – Plan and draft study-related publications

• Members
  – Members of the Executive Committee
  – Hub Principal Investigators
Executive Committee

• Activities
  – Oversee administrative functions
  – Ensure effective communication and collaboration among Hubs
  – Formulate and maintain standards for the network
  – Responsible for integration of all elements of the network, including all regulatory compliance
  – Advocates, represents, and promotes mission of the network

• Members
  – William Barsan (Chair), Robin Conwit, Catherine Dillon, Valerie Durkalski, Dan Lowenstein, Lewis Morgenstern, Yuko Palesch, Art Pancioli, Robert Silbergleit, Valerie Stevenson
Network Advisory Group

• Activities
  – Oversight of the network
  – Give final approval to
    • trial protocols
    • modifications to the protocols
    • the overall budget
    • plans for analysis

• Members
  – Appointed and organized by NINDS
  – Experts in Emergency Medicine and Neurology
  – NINDS officials with expertise in clinical trials

• Forwards reports and recommendations to NINDS
Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)

• Members
  – Appointed by NINDS

• Activities
  – Monitor safety and performance and to review interim analyses in the NETT Network clinical trials

• Depending on the specific trials selected, more than one DSMB may be required
Network Operations Committee

• Activities
  – Oversees the day-to-day operational issues of both study management and site management
  – Responsible for the operational aspects of the individual trials such as regulatory compliance, monitoring and maximizing recruitment
  – Responsible for the integration of the Hub and Spoke System by providing education, guidance and feedback to Network personnel

• Members
  – Catherine Dillon, Valerie Durkalski, Irene Ewing, Erin Zaleski, Donna Harsh, Deneil Kolk, Yuko Palesch, Art Pancioli, Joy Pinkerton, Robert Silbergleit, Valerie Stevenson
Spoke

Color Key for Flow Of Funds

Infrastructure awards directly from NINDS

Subcontracts with Trial PI

Subcontract with NETT CCC

Subcontract with Hub

** Source of funding depends on type of agency providing the service

NINDS

SDMC

Trial PI

Funds from R01

CCC

Centralized pharmacy or trial services**

Hubs

Spoke

Spoke

Funds from R01

Nett CCC

Trial PI

Subcontracts with Trial PI

Subcontract with NETT CCC

Subcontract with Hub

** Source of funding depends on type of agency providing the service
Questions?