

## **COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordinating Team (CCRCT, or “Cricket”) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

April 17, 2020

**Background:** The COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordinating Team (CCRCT) was formed in March 2020 to develop a TPMG agenda for COVID-19 research, appraise and prioritize ideas, and facilitate communication and collaboration among TPMG physicians, researchers, other KPNC internal stakeholders, and external groups.

### **1. What does the CCRCT do?**

- Reviews COVID-19 study ideas and proposals to share data for research that are sent by TPMG physicians and researchers and other KPNC stakeholders
- Connects physicians and researchers with common interests
- Provides a resource for TPMG executives who request advice or communications support
- Coordinates communication so that persons who have sent ideas receive feedback in a timely manner
  
- For study ideas that need internal non-financial or financial resources, recommends relative priorities and potential sources of support
- Refers interested parties to internal resources, including non-financial supports and funding programs, where appropriate
  
- Works collaboratively with the DOR Scientific Leadership Council on coordination and governance of COVID-19 research
- Where needed, averts or resolves conflicts among parties that are not already governed by the DOR Scientific Leadership Council
- Helps gather and disseminate, as appropriate, COVID related research results within KPNC

### **2. What does the CCRCT not do?**

- Have direct responsibility to approve or deny COVID study ideas or collaborations
- Provide funding for ideas submitted
- Take direct responsibility for arranging non-financial or financial support for physicians or researchers developing study ideas
- Resolve conflicts among DOR researchers

### **3. What ideas or inquiries should be sent to the CCRCT?**

- Ideas from TPMG physicians and other KPNC parties who would like to lead or co-lead studies and are seeking partnership
- Specific ideas in development from DOR researchers, mainly for tracking and coordination purposes. DOR researchers should follow the usual processes for approvals within DOR
- Requests for data or collaboration from external researchers, public health authorities, and others

- Requests to share large amounts of data on broadly defined groups of patients with external parties need to be reviewed by the CCRCT as well as the DOR Data Sharing Workgroup

#### 4. How do I send an idea or question to the CCRCT?

For questions, please contact: [covidresearch@kp.org](mailto:covidresearch@kp.org)

For new COVID research proposals or ideas, please use: [COVID-19 Research Idea](#)

#### 5. If I send my idea to the CCRCT, who else will see it?

Your idea will be treated as confidential until the CCRCT reaches a determination on it and follows up with you. After this, it will be included on a list in the periodic report the CCRCT issues for executives and DOR researchers.

#### 6. How soon will I receive a reply about my idea?

The CCRCT will be reviewing ideas once a week. The turnaround time for review may take more than a week if the team has a backlog. The team will do its best to reply to each inquiry within a few days after it's been reviewed.

#### 7. Do I need CCRCT approval to move forward with my study?

You will need CCRCT clearance or DOR director's clearance before submitting an Institutional Review Board application for your COVID study. CCRCT clearance may be granted at the time of initial submission of a proposal or idea, or later in the development process. Please include the CCRCT clearance notification with your submission to the IRB. If your study needs CCRCT clearance, please contact: [covidresearch@kp.org](mailto:covidresearch@kp.org)

#### 8. What criteria does the CCRCT use to evaluate ideas?

1. **Soundness** – Does the idea address a sound research question?
2. **Feasibility** – Is the idea feasible for KPNC to lead or collaborate in?

If yes (or uncertain) to the above,

3. **Timeliness** – How likely is the idea to generate information useful for patient care or to advance useful scientific knowledge within the next 12 months?
4. **Personnel capacity** – Do we have the right people (physicians, researchers, laboratory leaders, others) available to be involved?
5. **Priority** – How high a priority is the idea from a clinical perspective? How robust is the study design, i.e. likely to produce valid information? Will it help clinical decision making for:

- Patients with at high risk of morbidity or mortality from COVID

- A common clinical scenario, such as “Who should be tested?”
6. **Non-financial requirements** – What non-financial internal resources would this idea require, especially in terms of needing support from teams that have competing priorities? (e.g., Regional Laboratory, Clinical Trials Program, clinical or other operational teams, teams constructing high-priority datasets)
  7. **Unique contribution** – Will our (KPNC’s) leadership or participation add unique information to public health, health services delivery, or societal understanding of the question? Or should we defer and let other equally qualified groups pursue this idea, due to finite bandwidth?
  8. **Funding likelihood**– Is the idea eligible for internal funding or dedicated support from TPMG or KFH? If not, how likely is it that external funding will be committed to support it?
  9. **Synergy and conflict** – Are other groups within KPNC pursuing related ideas?  
Opportunities for synergy?  
Overlaps or conflicts?
  10. **Reputation** – Will pursuing, collaborating, and/or publishing in this idea enhance TPMG’s reputation? If we’re sharing data assets, is the proposed arrangement a win-win?

## 9. Who is on the CCRCT?

The group is co-chaired by:

- **Gabriel Escobar, MD**, TPMG Regional Director for Hospital Operations Research
- **Nicola Klein, MD, PhD**, Director, Vaccine Study Center
- **Jacek Skarbinski, MD**, Infectious Disease Physician (OAK) and Adjunct Investigator, DOR

Other members include:

- **Doug Corley, MD, PhD**, TPMG Regional Director for Delivery Science and Applied Research
- **Alan Go, MD**, Director, KPNC Clinical Trials Program and Associate Director, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research, DOR
- **Tracy Lieu, MD, MPH**, Director, Division of Research
- **Vincent Liu, MD, MS**, TPMG Regional Director for Hospital Advanced Analytics
- **Michael Silverberg, PhD**, Senior Research Scientist, DOR

The CCRCT is sponsored by Yi-Fen Irene Chen, MD, the TPMG Associate Executive Director for quality and research.

## 10. How can I learn more?

For updated information, active clinical trials and studies, and other information, please go to: <https://deliveryscience-appliedresearch.kaiserpermanente.org/specialty-networks/covid>