



Multicenter Uveitis Steroid Treatment Research Group

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Dear Investigator:

The MUST Research Group is seeking applications for clinical centers to join the existing MUST clinical centers in the conduct of two new clinical trials for treatment of uveitic macular edema. The MUST Research Group, which successfully completed the Multicenter Uveitis Steroid Treatment (MUST) Trial and currently is conducting a long-term follow-up study of these patients, consists of 22 predominantly tertiary care centers (20 in the US, and one each in Australia and the UK) and 3 Resource Centers:

- Chairman's Office at Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai, Douglas Jabs, MD MBA, Chairman, John H. Kempen, MD, PhD, Vice-Chairman (University of Pennsylvania)
- Coordinating Center at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Janet Holbrook, PhD, MPH, Director
- Reading Center at University of Wisconsin, Michael Altaweel, MD, Director

The two new trials, the Periocular and Intravitreal Corticosteroids for Uveitic Macular Edema (POINT) Trial (Jennifer E. Thorne, MD, PhD, protocol chair) and the Macular Edema Ranibizumab v. Intravitreal Anti-inflammatory Therapy (MERIT) Trial (Nisha R. Acharya, MD, MS and Albert T Vitale, MD protocol chairs) are funded by the National Eye Institute. POINT will compare the relative efficacy of three common approaches for the regional treatment of uveitic macular edema, periocular and intravitreal triamcinolone acetonide, and the dexamethasone intravitreal implant. MERIT will evaluate the relative efficacy of intravitreal ranibizumab and intravitreal methotrexate and the dexamethasone intravitreal implant for the treatment of uveitic macular edema persisting after intravitreal triamcinolone acetonide. We plan to initiate the POINT Trial in Spring 2015 in clinical centers that are currently following participants in the MUST Trial Follow-up Study and to have new clinical centers selected and preparing for start-up by the time of our Research Group meeting in June 2015. The MERIT Trial will begin approximately 12 months after the start of POINT; the trials will run concurrently until POINT is completed.

If you are interested in being a clinical center for POINT and MERIT at your institution, please visit the Clinic Applications link at our website

<http://www.musttrial.org/public/apply/mustapplyintro.asp> to find out more about the design of the POINT and MERIT Trials, the scope of work, and the capitation schedule. The application process consists of completing the online application and submitting the Clinic Director's CV through this webpage.

Applications must be submitted by 30 March 2015. Applications will be evaluated by an independent committee and clinical centers selection will be made in April/May 2015. The

training meeting for these trials will be in Baltimore, MD on 18 June (coordinators only) and 19 June (Clinic Directors and coordinators).

We look forward to working with new investigators and clinical center personnel for POINT and MERIT and thank you for your interest in this project. If you have trouble accessing the website, please email us at JHSPH.must@jhu.edu or would like more information about the trials or application process, please contact Jill Slutsky-Sanon (jill.slutsky-sanon@mssm.edu or 212-824-7321) or Douglas A. Jabs, MD, MBA (douglas.jabs@mssm.edu). High level protocol questions can be addressed to the protocol chairs, who can be accessed through Ms. Slutsky-Sanon.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Jabs, MD, MBA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. A. Jabs, MD, MBA', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Application site materials:

- Clinical center application
- POINT design summary
- MERIT design summary
- Scope of work and capitation schedule