
Alternatives to industry: Seeking independence in biopharmaceutical research

— Quinn Grundy | PhD | RN —

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The status quo



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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Two Phase 3 Trials of Adalimumab for Hidradenitis Suppurativa

Alexa B. Kimball, M.D., M.P.H., Martin M. Okun, M.D., Ph.D., David A. Williams, M.D., M.P.H., Alice B. Gottlieb, M.D., Ph.D., Kim A. Papp, M.D., Ph.D., Christos C. Zouboulis, M.D., Ph.D., April W. Armstrong, M.D., Francisco Kerdel, M.D., Michael H. Gold, M.D., Seth B. Forman, M.D., Neil J. Korman, M.D., Ph.D., Evangelos J. Giamparellos-Bourboulis, M.D., Ph.D., Jeffrey J. Crowley, M.D., Charles Lynde, M.D., Ziad Reguiai, M.D., Errol-Prospero Prens, M.D., Ph.D., Ehab Alwawi, B.S., Nael M. Mostafa, Ph.D., Brett Pinsky, Ph.D., Murali Sundaram, Ph.D., Yihua Gu, M.S., Dawn M. Carlson, M.D., M.P.H., and Gregor B.E. Jemec, M.D., D.M.Sc.
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[Disclosure forms](#) provided by the authors are available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

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Policy levers

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Journal* ++	Disclosure	Funding of systematic reviews / other articles		Author conflicts of interest (COI)		
	ICMJE	Prohibits industry funding of systematic reviews	Other prohibitions of industry funding of articles	Prohibits any authors with COI on systematic reviews	Prohibits the majority of the author team on systematic reviews from having a COI	Other prohibitions of author COI
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	YES	YES	NA (publishes only SR)	NO	YES, “only where a majority of the review authors and lead author have no relevant conflicts of interests, it may be possible for an author who has a declared interest ... to be a Cochrane Review author.	YES, Individuals who are employed by a company that has a real or potential financial interest in the outcome of the Cochrane Review (including but not limited to drug companies or medical device manufacturers), or who hold or have applied for a patent related to the Cochrane Review are prohibited from being Cochrane Review authors.
New England Journal of Medicine	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES, authors of reviews and editorials cannot have <i>significant</i> (>\$10,000) financial interests in any company that makes a product discussed in the article
Lancet	YES	NO	YES, organisations other than <i>The Lancet</i> cannot commission	NO	NO	YES, authors of comment, seminars, reviews and series cannot have held stocks, have, equity, contract of employment or board

Bero (2018). “More journals should have conflict of interest policies as strict as Cochrane, BMJ Blog, November 12, 2018

Exploring alternatives



Public sector innovation

COUNTRY, STUDY	FUNDER	TYPE
China, CTRY2000029757	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS)	NGO
UK, RECOVERY	NIHR	Government
UK/International, REMAP-CAP	European Union, NHMRC (Aus), HRC (NZ), CIHR (Canada)	Government
USA, National Emergency Access Program	BARDA, NIH	Government
India, PLACID	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	Government
Argentina, PlasmAr Study	Participating hospitals	Health system
Canada, CONCOR-1	CIHR, philanthropy, health system	Government, health system, philanthropy
USA/International, ITAC	NIAID/ NIH INSIGHT Network Pharmaceutical industry	Government, industry (product)

Priority setting: Access versus evidence

ADAM ROGERS SCIENCE 08.21.2020 07:00 AM

97,000 People Got Convalescent Plasma. Who Knows if It Works?

A treatment made from the blood of recovered Covid-19 patients seemed promising in March. Today ... well, it's still just promising.



"There were elements within this pragmatic design that allowed for something similar to randomization," says one researcher. "I call it pseudo-randomization." PHOTOGRAPH: GUILLERMO LEGARIA/GETTY IMAGES

Sarah Boseley
Health editor

Fri 17 Apr 2020 10.11 BST



6063

Coronavirus: world's biggest trial of drug to treat Covid-19 begins in UK

Scientists involved in Recovery trial, with over 5,000 test subjects, hope for answers within weeks

- [Coronavirus - latest updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)



▲ Oxford University's Jenner Institute, one of the hubs of the search for a cure to coronavirus. Photograph: Greg Blatchford/Rex/Shutterstock

Infrastructure and capacity

“Reputed elite institutions, first world collaborations, third party organisations, or big funding are a big help if available, but they are not indispensable.”

– Authors of the PLACID Trial (India)

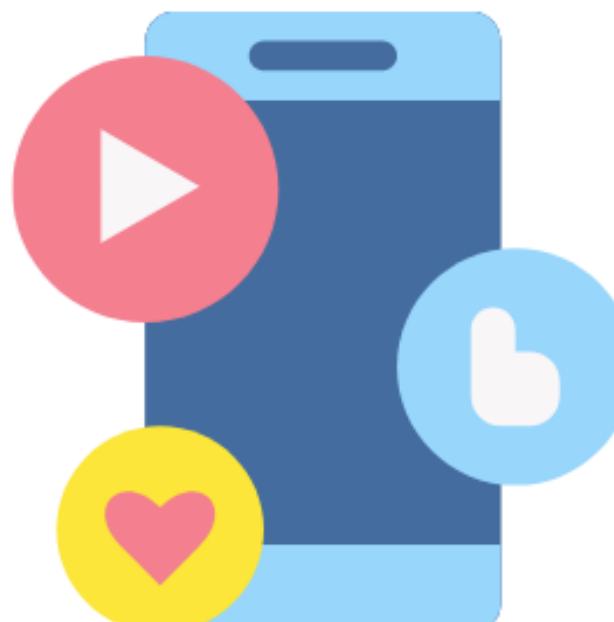
“Openness”



Networks



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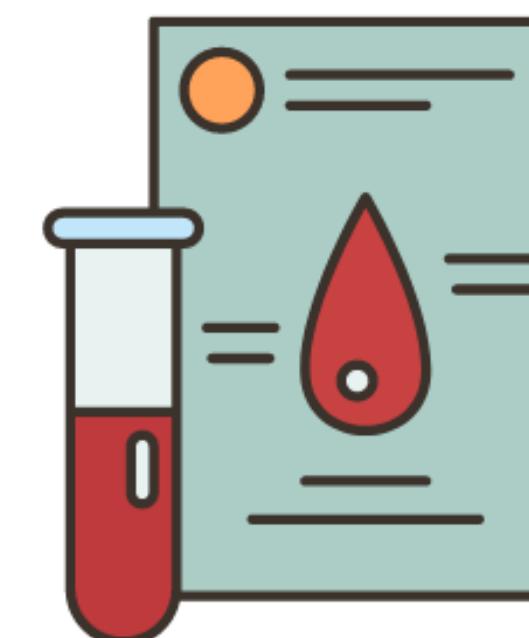
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Public support and politicization

8/10/2020

As Trump Praises Plasma, Researchers Struggle to Finish Critical Studies - The New York Times

The New York Times

<https://nyti.ms/33qT4nT>

As Trump Praises Plasma, Researchers Struggle to Finish Critical Studies

Thousands of Covid-19 patients have been treated with blood plasma outside of rigorous clinical trials — hampering research that would have shown whether the therapy worked.

By [Katie Thomas](#) and [Noah Weiland](#)

Plasma therapy under ICMR cloud, Delhi Health Minister bats for it: Saved my life

AAP MLA Raghav Chadha, who was part of the team looking after the plasma bank project, said that if the therapy is removed from ICMR's list, it would be a hurried decision.

Written by [Astha Saxena](#)

New Delhi | Updated: October 22, 2020 8:38:45 am

 **NewsGuard**



Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain speaks to the media in New Delhi on October 22, 2020.

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Shots

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Market For Blood Plasma From COVID-19 Survivors Heats Up

May 11, 2020 · 5:00 AM ET

JONEL ALECCIA

The chance to fail

- Aimed to answer clinically relevant questions
- Prioritized equity, affordability, access
- Bolstered health systems and public health capacity
- Need for robust governance

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Contact:

quinn.grundy@utoronto.ca

[@QuinnGrundy](https://twitter.com/QuinnGrundy)