

Lessons from COVID-19 for Linking Clinical Research with Policy

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ABSTRACT

WHO's new research for health department has five functions integrated to apply research and innovation to achieve for people's health around the world. There are 6 major themes the WHO sees moving from niche to norm in clinical research. Those are i) prioritization of randomized evidence ii) adaptive large scale platform trials iii) public health agencies/MOH engagement in clinical research iv) focus on quality and relevance to address policy questions v) sharing of underlying data and reuse of data vi) democratizing research. This effort is hoping to improve the link between clinical research and policy in practice.

Phase 1 Clinical Trials Centre at HKU

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ABSTRACT

Hong Kong is a good place to conduct clinical trials because of the good medical care system, computerised medical records, a pool of investigators with international reputations, and the use of English in all medical documents. The Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) was established in 1998, and acts as a one-stop centre to facilitate clinical trials. It offers contract research organization and site management organisation services. A business development team liaises with industrial sponsors. It is a founding member of the International Clinical Trial Center Network (ICN). In the last 20 years, the Centre has handled more than 1200 trials. To facilitate trial subject recruitment, there is a dedicated website and social media presence, and articles introducing clinical trials are published in magazines and books. With government seeding money, two phase 1 clinical trials centres, each with 24 beds, were set up in the two university hospitals in Hong Kong. Currently, many of the phase 1 trials are in oncology and hepatology. Both phase 1 centres in Hong Kong are accredited by the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA), which means that data from trials done in these two centres may be used for the purpose of drug registration in China. A phase 1 clinical trials centre has also been established at the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital.