

**European Cystic Fibrosis Society - Clinical Trials Network**

**Applications for membership in 2016**

The European Cystic Fibrosis Society - Clinical Trials Network (ECFS-CTN) is a network of 30 Specialist Cystic Fibrosis Centres from 11 countries in Europe who are committed to a coordinated strategic approach to CF clinical trials in Europe and worldwide. The ECFS is inviting further applications from CF Centres to become Clinical Research Centres in this Network.

**The aim of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society - Clinical Trials Network** is to intensify clinical research in the area of cystic fibrosis and to bring new medicines to the patients as quickly as possible.  This is done by:

* Sharing expertise among dedicated CF researchers
* Expert reviewing of clinical trial protocols
* Maintaining high quality within sites by following site participation and performance in studies and issuing quality reports to the sites
* Standardising outcome measures by writing standardized operating procedures, implementing them and setting up certification procedures and central reading
* Validating new and alternative endpoints such as LCI, Chest-CT and MRI
* Providing training to the site’s staff
* Involving and cooperating with the patient organizations and other stakeholders, such as the US CF clinical trials network, the CFF-TDN

**Being an ECFS-CTN site implies that:**

* The lead person of the site (called the Principal Investigator or PI) will ensure swift communication between the site and the ECFS-CTN coordinating centre. The PI will also ensure swift communication within his site about ECFS-CTN activities
* The PI or a site representative will attend the 2 face-to-face meetings of the ECFS-CTN each year
* Some site members will be involved in ECFS-CTN committees
* The site will only conduct pharma studies that have been reviewed and approved by the ECFS-CTN. Likewise, feasibility checks will only be filled out once an agreement has been reached between the sponsor and the ECFS-CTN. (For Investigator-initiated studies, there's no requirement of ECFS-CTN involvement.)
* A dedicated person will fill out enrolment information quarterly for the whole site (adult and paediatric if relevant)

More information is available on the ECFS-CTN website: <http://www.ecfs.eu/ctn>

**The eligibility criteria to be an ECFS-CTN site are mainly:**

* To be a specialist CF Centre in a European country or in a country connected to Europe according to the European Neighbourhood Policy

(<http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/international/neighbourhood_policy/index_en.htm>)

* To have at least 100 patients in full care
* A joint paediatric/adult centre is encouraged provided that: a) both sites gather at least 150 patients in total, b) they can show active collaboration, c) the site PI is willing to act as contact person for both areas and d) the PI and co-PI are representative of both paediatric and adult areas. (Please note that a centre composed of more than one paediatric and one adult centre i.e. “composite site” (grouping of several paediatric or adult centres on different locations) will not be eligible)
* The site PI and co-PI must show involvement in the care of CF patients, experience in CF clinical research, commitment to work within ECFS-CTN and ability to communicate
* The site works according to ECFS Standards of Care
* The site has experience in CF clinical research
* The site has human, logistic, administrative and technical resources to run clinical trials
* The site has institutional support (as evidenced by personnel, space, contracting facility or other program support)
* The PI and co-PI are current ECFS members

**Evaluation of applications:**

An Evaluation Board will be appointed by the Board of the ECFS. The Evaluation Board will be responsible for the ranking of the received applications. The Evaluation Board will not include physicians from centres applying to participate in the network.

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility criteria and scored according to the following criteria:

* Quality of the centre (#50%)
* Experience in clinical research (#30%)
* Resources for clinical research (#20%)

Please fill out the application form below and send it back to ECFS-CTN@uzleuven.be

**Deadline = January 15th, 2015**

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| --- |
| **Centre information** |
| **Name and first name of PI:**      Email address:      Telephone number:       Name and address of PI's CF Centre:      Centre: [ ]  Adult  [ ]  Paediatric [ ]  Adult and PaediatricECFS membership number for 2014:       **Name and first name of co-PI:**      Email address:      Telephone number:      Name and address of co-PI's CF Centre (if different):      Centre: [ ]  Adult  [ ]  Paediatric [ ]  Adult and PaediatricECFS membership number for 2014:      **1 - PIs qualifications***Care of CF patients*What is your involvement in the CF centre?       Of how many CF patients did you personally take care in 2013?       Adults        ChildrenIf you don't personally follow CF patients, in what way are you involved in their care?      *Experience in CF clinical trials*For how many CF industry-sponsored trials have you been the principal investigator in the past years (2010-2014)?Phase 1b and 2:       Phase 3:       *Commitment to work within ECFS-CTN* How many hours per month (on average), will you be able to dedicate to ECFS-CTN activities i.e. protocol review, ECFS-CTN meetings, telephone conferences and other network activities? (excluding the activities related to clinical trial preparation and conduct)[ ]  less than 2 hours per month[ ]  around 4 hours per month[ ]  more than 4 hours per month*Publications*List your CF-related publications during the past 5 years (2010-2014): only original articles in peer-reviewed journals need to be listed.     *Collaborative activities*List national or international CF-related working groups in which you have been involved during the past 5 years (2010-2014). If they had led to publications, please provide the reference.     List any other international collaborative activity     **2 – Co-PI qualifications***Care of CF patients*What is your involvement in the CF centre?      Of how many CF patients did you personally take care in 2013?       Adults        ChildrenIf you don't personally follow CF patients, in what way are you involved in their care?      *Experience in CF clinical trials*For how many CF industry-sponsored trials have you been the principal investigator in the past 4 years (2010-2014)?Phase 1b and 2:      Phase 3:       *Commitment to work within ECFS-CTN* How many hours per month (on average), will you be able to dedicate to ECFS-CTN activities i.e. protocol review, ECFS-CTN meetings, telephone conferences and other network activities? (excluding the activities related to clinical trial preparation and conduct)[ ]  less than 2 hours per month[ ]  around 4 hours per month[ ]  more than 4 hours per month*Publications*List your CF-related publications during the past 5 years (2010-2014): only original articles in peer-reviewed journals need to be listed.     *Collaborative activities*List national or international CF-related working groups in which you have been involved during the past 5 years (2010-2014). If they had led to publications, please provide the reference.     List any other international collaborative activity      |
| **3 - Description of your centre**1 – **Number of patients** (not counting the transplanted patients)Number of adults (≥ 18 years old) followed at your site in 2013:       Number of children (≤ 17 years old) followed at your site in 2013:       2 – **If it is a joint paediatric/adult application:*** in which ways do both sites collaborate?
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| 3 – **Standards of care***For the centre covered by this application:*Is your centre recognized by a National authority: [ ]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes, which one and date of acknowledgement: *Multidisciplinary Team*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CF-dedicated resources | Full-time equivalent (dedicated to CF) |
| Consultants (MD) |       |
| Specialist nurses |       |
| Physiotherapists |       |
| Dietician |       |
| Psychologist |       |
| Social worker |       |
| Pharmacist |       |
| Secretarial support |       |

*Patient follow-up:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Frequency of routine appointments | Every       months |
| Full medical review is performed at least once a year  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Full dietetic review is performed at least once a year  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Full physiotherapy review is performed at least once a year  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Full psychosocial review is performed at least once a year  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Other: specify  |       |

*Are the below facilities available:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sweat test | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  NA |
| CF-specialist in microbiology  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  NA |
| CFTR geneticist | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  NA |
| Program for transition from paediatric to adult care  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  NA |
| Facilities for home IV treatment | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  NA |
| Facilities allow for patient segregation (prevention of cross-infection) | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  NA |
| Other: specify |       |

Do you have a national program for improving quality in CF care? [ ]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes, do you participate in this program? [ ]  Yes [ ]  NoDo you enter your patients into a Registry? [ ]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes, which one: [ ]  National [ ]  European [ ]  Other: specify      If yes, what percentage of your patients were entered last year?       **4 - Experience of the site in clinical research***Industry-sponsored trials*List the industry-sponsored trials in CF patients in which your site has participated during the past 4 years (2010-2014). (Trials not registered in clinical trials.gov or EUDRACT need not be listed)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Full name of the trial | Clinical trials.gov identifier or EUDRACT number | Name of the site's PI | Phase 1b, 2, 3 or 4 | Number of patients enroled by your site |
|       |       |       |       |       |

*Investigator-initiated-trials*List the CF-related investigator-initiated-trials in which your site has participated during the past 10 years (2005-2014) AND which was published or presented at an international conference (please list the references or provide the abstracts)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Full name of the trial and reference of the publication | National or Multinational | Was your site the site initiating the trial? | Name of the site's PI | Number of patients enroled by your site |
|       |       |       |       |       |

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| **5 - Resources for clinical research*****Personnel***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Names | % time dedicated to CF clinical research | Years of experience in CF clinical research | Date of last GCP certificate |
| Investigators | -     -     -     -      | -     -     -     -      | -     -     -     -      | -     -     -     -      |
| Research nurses | -     -      | -     -      | -     -      | -     -      |
| Research coordinators | -     -      | -     -      | -     -      | -     -      |
| Pharmacists | -      | -      | -      | -      |

***Database*:** Are the CF patients characteristics listed in a database? [ ]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes: How many patients are in the database?      Who is responsible for its maintenance?       How often is it filled out?       How does your site identify patients meeting certain inclusion/exclusion criteria for clinical trials? (multiple answers possible)[ ]  Automatic query in the hospital or CF centre electronic database [ ]  Manual search in the hospital or CF centre electronic database [ ]  Via the national registry ***CF-specific outcome parameters***Please indicate which of the following are available at your centre: |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nasal PD measurement | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Intestinal current measurement | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| High resolution CT scan | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Fiberoptic bronchoscopy  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| BAL inflammatory markers processing: cytology, IL and PG measurements,  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Infant lung function test  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Multiple breath inert gas washout for lung clearance index  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Magnetic Resonance Imaging | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Microbiome analysis | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| **Other** (please specify): |       |

***Clinical research facility:***Is there a dedicated area in your centre/hospital for clinical trials?     If yes, how many CF patients can you receive per day for a trial visit?     **6 - Institutional support** Please provide a letter of support from the Head of Department or Clinical Director. You may also provide any other document you may find useful in showing your institution support. |