Request for Proposal (RFP) for
Regulatory support consultancy for the utility of data from human infection studies as part of the vaccine regulatory licensure pathway

1. RFP Background & Objectives

Background

The Wellcome Trust (the 'Trust, 'Wellcome') is the world's second highest spending global charitable foundation. We support discovery research into life, health and wellbeing, and we're taking on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, global heating and infectious diseases.

Wellcome's Infectious Disease Challenge Area has a long-term remit to fund a portfolio of activities to ensure the world is protected against different types of infectious disease, and the threat of disease-escalation now and in the future. Within this portfolio, Wellcome has committed to funding several human infection studies in disease-endemic settings within low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with the goal of accelerating vaccine development for those communities most at need. Additionally, as a result of the COVID pandemic and interest in SARS-CoV-2 human infection study, Wellcome is also supporting the establishment of a human infection study in the UK with the original Wuhan virus and more recently the Delta variant, with the aim of accelerating the development of COVID vaccines.

Given the unique ability for human infection studies to provide valuable insights into the efficacy and safety of a drug relatively quickly, data from such studies could be an important component for 1) de-risking/down-selecting of multiple vaccine candidates, 2) understanding host immune response to the pathogen; 3) providing an alternative approach to assess efficacy of vaccine candidates if field trials are not or no longer possible (e.g. when there is limited availability of naïve participants); 4) used to demonstrate multi-variant/strain protection. Although data from these studies is typically used to complement Phase I/II/III clinical research, there are instances where it can be used to inform the late stage clinical trial development (e.g. informing on the statistical powering required), where providing challenge data might be more appropriate (and ethical) compared to conducting a large field study.

Despite the clear advantages human infection study data provides towards the understanding of vaccine and therapeutic performance, there are limited examples of its use within the regulatory licensure pathway. For instance, there has only ever been one vaccine solely licensed based on challenge data (Vaxchora, a cholera vaccine), and that license is limited to a specific setting (i.e. travellers, not those living in an endemic area). Wellcome has previously commissioned a piece of research on the utility of human infection data as part of the licensure pathway using COVID-19 as an example. However, with the increased use of human infection studies for vaccines internationally, there is a growing need to strengthen acceptability and utility of challenge data in both standard and emergency use licensure pathways to support an accelerated vaccine/therapeutic development process.

Purpose of the consultancy

Building on previously commissioned research, the project aims to determine how human infection study data can be best utilised within the vaccine regulatory licensure pathway to accelerate development of vaccines for people in areas that are disproportionately affected

and most vulnerable to future threats from infectious diseases that are already on the rise and those with the potential to become future outbreaks.

The objectives are to understand:

- Current acceptability to regulators and vaccine developers of human infection study data for demonstration of vaccine efficacy and barriers preventing its utilisation
- Best practices, standards and parameters that could be applied to all challenge studies to satisfy regulatory demands, inform late stage clinical development and encourage commercial investment from industry
- Research, co-ordination and funding activities required to maximise the utilisation of human infection study data amongst vaccine developers and within the regulatory licensure pathway

Outcomes of the project will be used to guide internal decision making and prioritisation on what further activity can be done by the Wellcome Trust to drive the utility of human infection study data. Depending on the outcomes of the study, Wellcome may also choose to share the outcomes of the research with other relevant stakeholders in the human infection study field.

2. RFP Specification

This section sets out the specification of services for this RFP exercise. Suppliers will be able to suggest their own methodology for the project with alternative / additional activities to achieve the deliverables, however they should use this section to fully understand Wellcome's requirements and to inform their response.

Work to be performed (due approx. 9 months from the contract start date)

Output 1: Assessment of the current utilisation of human infection study data within the vaccine licensure pathway

- **Activity 1.1:** Conduct an analysis of the existing utility of human infection study data within the standard and emergency licensure pathway and barriers preventing its use. The analysis should build on work previously commissioned by the Wellcome and cover vaccines developed in cholera, influenza, malaria, COVID-19, as well as up to 3 cases where efficacy data from human challenge could accelerate the development of vaccines, and any other appropriate examples.
    - **Deliverable 1.1:** Summary of key literature in relation to the current acceptability of human infection study data within the licensure pathway and the barriers/challenges identified that prevented its use
- **Activity 1.2:** Engage with global human infection study experts (from academic institutions and industry, particularly the team involved in the licensure of Vaxchora where HIS data was key) as well as Wellcome funded sites (where vaccine efficacy studies are either being conducted or are planned) to evaluate current practices, to understand expected data outcomes (e.g. vaccine efficacy or identification of immune correlates of protection) and identify barriers for data collection
    - **Deliverable 1.2:** Summary of discussions from each human infection study location, highlighting commonalities and differences on current practices, expected data outcomes and barriers for data collection

- **Deliverable 1.3**: Report summarising insights from activity 1.1 and 1.2 to develop hypotheses on the current acceptability and expected utility of human infection study data for each Wellcome funded site within the licensure pathway
    - Presentation of the key findings from the report to the broader Wellcome Prevention team

Output 2: Alignment among stakeholders with regards to the acceptance of human infection study data within the licensure pathway and best practices to improve utility

- **Activity 2.1:** Identify an international expert panel including industry stakeholders (i.e. vaccine developers), global human infection study experts from academia and industry (ensuring a wide range of disease expertise), representation from the team involved in the development of Vaxchora and other critical partners within the human challenge field (e.g. CEPI, WHO, GAVI). Opinions/input should also be gathered from international regulators (from both low- and middle- income countries e.g. ANVISA, Thai FDA, Uganda NDA and high-income countries e.g. FDA, EMA, MHRA).
- **Activity 2.2**: Convene the expert panel to discuss each of the following topics regarding the utility of human infection study data in the licensure pathway:
    - Baseline expectations for the current acceptability/utility (e.g. to demonstrate vaccine efficacy or to define correlates of protection)
    - Best practices, standards and parameters to enhance the utility
    - Barriers to the utilisation of human infection study data
    - Activities required by stakeholders such as Wellcome to enhance utilisation in the future through advocacy, provision of tools or additional funding
- **Deliverable 2.1:** Facilitation of each expert panel session, including development of discussion materials (e.g. pre-reads, stimuli and discussion guides) and a summary/write-up of the discussions
- **Deliverable 2.2:** Report summarising expectations for the utility of human infection study data within the licensure pathway, key challenges faced and potential solutions/activities that will support its utilisation
    - Presentation of the key findings from the report to the broader Wellcome Prevention team

Output 3: Recommend key activities for the Wellcome Trust to consider investing in and activities for other stakeholders within the human infection study field to consider

- **Activity 3.1:** Synthesise insights from the expert panel to develop broad guidance for the inclusion of human infection study data within the licensure pathway
    - For the scenarios discussed, conduct an economic analysis of the potential cost savings in product development when utilising a HIS
- **Activity 3.3:** Develop a framework to prioritise key activities for Wellcome and other stakeholders where appropriate to consider investing in based on feasibility, impact and cost
    - If required, validate and refine the guidance or recommended activities through additional discussions with selected expert panel members

- **Deliverable 3.1**: Final report aligned with Wellcome branding summarising prioritised activities for Wellcome to consider conducting within the next 3-5 years
    - External communication materials, developed with professional copy editing and graphics, summarising the key findings from the report (e.g. an executive summary, infographics etc.)
    - Presentation of the key findings from the report to the broader Wellcome Infectious Disease Health Challenge team

General requirements

- The supplier will be asked to attend any other relevant Wellcome organised workshops that may inform the outcomes of the project (e.g. the Correlates of Protection Workshops organised by the Vaccines team)
- Meeting minutes should be provided for all key engagements
- All outputs should be delivered as word documents, with accompanying slide decks of summary findings, developed with the Wellcome Trust template and branding

Specific requirements of the consultant

Qualifications and Experience

- Regulatory experience in pharmaceutical/medical industry
- Experience of direct interactions with public health and regulatory authorities [e.g. MHRA, FDA, EMA, FAMHP (Belgian regulatory authority) and other national agencies or association (e.g. ICMRA)]
- Experience with late stage clinical trial design
- Experience with human infection studies not required but he/she/they should be familiar with the science and the current available guidelines
- Global experience preferred but not necessary

Technical skills and knowledge

- Knowledge of regulatory approval procedures (experience in vaccines preferred)
- Good communication skills (both oral and written English)

3. RFP Timetable

#	**Activity**	**Responsibility**	**Target Date** Please note these may be subject to change
1	RFP issue to Suppliers	WT	W/C 6th June 2022
2	Submission of expression of interest to RFP	Supplier	W/C 20th June 2022
3	Submission of Supplier Q&A to Wellcome Contact	Supplier	W/C 27th June 2022

4	Return of Supplier Q&A to Suppliers	WT	W/C 4th July 2022
5	Submission of RFP Response	Supplier	5 pm on 15th July 2022
6	RFP Evaluation Period	WT	18th July to 29th July 2022
7	Supplier Presentations (subject to Wellcome and Supplier availability)	Supplier	W/C 1st August 2022
8	Notification of Contract Award	WT	W/C 8th August 2022
9	Contract Negotiation	WT & Supplier	8th August to 12th August
10	Proposed Contract Start Date	WT & Supplier	15th August 2022

4. Response Format

The following headers support the timetable by providing further detail of the key steps.

Expression of Interest

Suppliers are asked to submit a short expression of interest by e-mail to the Wellcome Contact in accordance with the RFP timetable.

Supplier Q&A

Prior to the submission of your RFP response, Suppliers are provided the opportunity to submit any questions they have about the exercise. All questions are to be submitted to the Wellcome Contact by e-mail in accordance with the RFP timetable. Suppliers will receive responses to questions submitted by all potential suppliers.

RFP Proposal

Suppliers are required to submit proposals which respond to the following sections;

Contract Feedback

This section allows Suppliers to provide specific feedback to the contractual agreement which will be used should their proposal be successful. Contract feedback is to be incorporated into your proposal as an annex and in the following format;

Clause #	Issue	Proposed Solution/Comment

Suppliers submitting proposals as a registered company should review this document. Individuals submitting proposals as a sole trader (not registered) should review document.

Individuals submitting proposals through their own personal services company please highlight this to the Wellcome contact immediately (see point 7 below).

Information Governance

Suppliers are asked to complete the TPSRA2 assessment before the RFP submission deadline for Wellcome to assess how you handle data.

RFP Questions

This section requests responses from Suppliers specific questions in relation to this RFP exercise.

#	Question	Max [Pages]
1	Provide a brief overview of your organisation, including your track record and expertise relevant to analysis of the type outlined in this RFP	1
2	Describe how you propose to meet our requirements. Please detail all the stakeholders you are proposing to engage, and your plans on how to best engage with them. Provide an overview of previous engagements which you might have had. You will be scored on your understanding of our requirements.	4
3	Describe the stages and timeframes in which you propose to meet our requirements.	1
4	Provide a cost proposal which details and justifies the proposed costs to meet our requirements.	1
5	Provide case studies of where you have successfully provided services similar to those described in this request for proposal.	1
6	Provide conformation that if you were appointed by the Wellcome Trust this would not create a conflict of interest.	1
7	What makes you best placed to fulfil Wellcome's requirements set out within this request? Highlight to us any risks which you foresee with meeting Wellcome's requirements.	1

5. About Wellcome

Wellcome supports science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone. We support discovery research into life, health and wellbeing, and we're taking on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, global heating and infectious diseases. Find out more about Wellcome and our work at: wellcome.org.

6. Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality

Prospective Suppliers should be aware that inappropriate publicity could have a serious effect upon Wellcome's business. The information contained within this document or subsequently made available to prospective suppliers is deemed confidential and must not be disclosed without the prior written consent of Wellcome unless required by law.

7. Prospective Suppliers Personnel - IR35 and Off Payroll Working Rules

Before the RFP response deadline, Prospective Suppliers must make the Wellcome Contact aware if they are intending to submit a proposal where the services will be provided by any individuals who are engaged by the Prospective Supplier via an intermediary i.e.

- Where the Prospective Supplier is an individual contracting through their own personal services company; or
- The Prospective Supplier is providing individuals engaged through intermediaries, for the purposes of the IR35 off-payroll working rules.

8. Independent Proposal

By submission of a proposal, prospective Suppliers warrant that the prices in the proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, agreement or understanding for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices, with any other potential supplier or with any competitor.

9. Funding

For the avoidance of doubt, the output of this RFP exercise will be funded as a **Contract** and not as a Grant.

10. Costs Incurred by Prospective Suppliers

It should be noted that this document relates to a Request for Proposal only and not a firm commitment from Wellcome to enter into a contractual agreement. In addition, Wellcome will not be held responsible for any costs associated with the production of a response to this Request for Proposal.

11. Sustainability

Wellcome is committed to procuring sustainable, ethical and responsibly sourced materials, goods and services. This means Wellcome seeks to purchase goods and services that minimise negative and enhance positive impacts on the environment and society locally, regionally and globally. To ensure Wellcome's business is conducted ethically and sustainably, we expect our suppliers, and their supply chains, to adhere to these principles in a responsible manner.

12. Disability Confident

The Wellcome Trust is proud to be a Disability Confident Employer (DC Level 2) and we encourage all our partners and suppliers to do the same. More information about this can be found on the government website Disability Confident employer scheme and guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Disability Confident is creating a movement of change, encouraging employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

13. Accessibility

Wellcome is committed to ensuring that our RFP exercises are accessible to everyone. If you have a disability or a chronic health condition, we can offer adjustments to the response format e.g. submitting your response in an alternate format. For support during the RFP exercise, contact the Wellcome Contact.

If, within the proposed outputs of this RFP exercise, specific adjustments are required by you or your team which incur additional cost then outline them clearly within your commercial response. Wellcome is committed to evaluating all proposals fairly and will ensure any proposed adjustment costs sit outside the commercial evaluation.

14. Diversity & Inclusion

Embracing diversity and inclusion is fundamental to delivering our mission to improve health, and we are committed to cultivating a fair and healthy environment for the people who work here and those we work with. As we learn more about barriers that disadvantage certain groups from progressing in our workplace, we will remove them.

Wellcome takes diversity and inclusion seriously, and we want to partner with suppliers who share our commitment. We may ask you questions related to D&I as part of our RFP processes.

15. Wellcome Contact Details

The single point of contact within this RFP exercise for all communications is as indicated below;

Name: Alyce O'Connor
Role: Procurement Officer
Email: RFP@Wellcome.org

16. Wellcome Evaluation Panel

The evaluation panel for this RFP exercise will consist of the following individuals.

Shobana Balasingham – Research Lead, Human Investigations & Challenge
Deborah King – Research Lead, Vaccines

Pete Gardner – Research Lead, Antibodies and Immunity
Nimisha Raj Sharma – Research Manager, Human Investigations & Challenge