Consultant Technical support for WHO to assess the feasibility and added value of the CURE ID Program

Contractual Arrangement: External consultant with an individual or a group of individuals within the same or different organization

Contract duration: October 2019 to July 2020 (10 months)

Location: Home-based

Organization: WHO HQ/CDS/NTD

Schedule: Part-time (40 to 50%)

Background

WHO recognizes that a significant proportion of currently used medicines either for mass or individual case treatments of several neglected tropical diseases (NTD), Tuberculosis (TB) and other infectious diseases are repurposed medicines. In the absence of new compounds, repurposing or repositioning or off-label use of medicines has several advantages including cutting medicines development time & cost; known safety profiles; and potential use for multiple diseases.

An online repository has been developed to collect data from clinical case reports and clinical trials where existing medicines are used in new ways (i.e. off-label) to treat infectious diseases that lack or have insufficient numbers of approved treatments by US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other partners. This initiative, the CURE ID Program, also includes a treatment discussion forum, mobile phone application, newsfeed of the latest ID news and database ([https://cure.ncats.io/](https://cure.ncats.io/)) (hereinafter referred to as “CURE application”).

A key goal of the CURE Program is to serve as a global resource for clinicians needing information to make informed decisions about difficult to treat infectious diseases in resource-limited settings. In addition, it is envisioned that analyses of the CURE Program clinical case and trial data could lead to an enhanced understanding of the safety and effectiveness of existing medical products, as well as spur medicine development and regulatory consideration of therapies for difficult to treat infections. A number of specific potential public health benefits of the CURE Program are identification of:

- new ways of treating infectious diseases (off-label indications)
- new combinations of effective medicines
- new dosing regimens, administrations and durations of therapy
- new options for treating infectious diseases in special populations (pregnancy, HIV, neonates, pediatrics, etc.)

that warrant large scale clinical trials to establish an efficacy and safety data base that could potentially inform regulatory submissions.

Sharing the clinical experience in the use of approved drugs used “off-label” and capturing this in a systematic way is believed to contribute to networking of major actors including major treatment centres, academics, health practitioners, and others to communicate treatment outcomes and other relevant information.
WHO plans to undertake wide consultations with the peer expert group and stakeholders to assess added values and limitations of CURE application, which aims to collect and produce new, high-quality sources of data on actual use of medical products in clinical practice. This would contribute to building global networks and improve communication among providers, researchers, pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders, informing new preclinical and clinical medicines development, and articulating regulatory guidance and discussions around off-label use and repurposing of medicines.

The consultant will support WHO’s work to assess the feasibility and added value of the CURE application, prepare working documents for the consultation meeting and draft potential roll-out strategy, until the end of July 2020.

Description of duties

1. Conduct a landscape analysis of the needs and available technologies and tools to collect and review real-world experience of repurposing of medicines and off-label use for infectious diseases
   - Undertake desk review of available technologies and tools to collect actual use of medical products in clinical practices
   - Conduct a survey to gather, analyze and review added value and limitations of CURE application
   - Identify priority/target infectious diseases, current drug utilization, countries/regions, specific populations and potential users for the pilot implementation and/or increased utilization of CURE application
   - Prepare a pre-meeting webinar or other agreed media to present CURE application to stakeholders and sensitize the group and summarize the outcomes

2. Support WHO in convening an informal expert group consultation meeting to review the CURE program and its potential application in complement to what already exists and to present the result of the landscape analysis
   - Assist in the preparation of the agenda and working documents for a 2-day meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2020 with a wide range of experts from various WHO departments, WHO regional and country offices, Ministries of Health and disease programs in selected countries, technical partners, donors, researchers, academia, clinicians and disease experts
   - Document feedback on CURE application and the next steps and requirements agreed upon during the consultation meeting

3. Develop roll-out strategy for increased uptake and sustainable use and adaptation of CURE application and identify potential challenges and risks
   - Define roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in further roll out of the application on selected areas
   - Identify advocacy and communication strategies to disseminate the tools, engage clinicians and researchers in dialogue, and build an active community that shares case reports and participates in discussion

Deliverables

1. Working papers to be shared with Informal Expert Consultation Participants before the Consultation (by April 2020) on
1. the landscape analysis and survey
2. the analysis of the results of the survey on the added value and limitations of CURE application
3. the proposed priority/target infectious diseases, countries/regions, specific populations and potential users for the pilot implementation and/or increased utilization of CURE application
4. the outcomes of the pre-meeting consultation with experts and stakeholders
5. potential roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in further roll out of the application on selected areas
6. potential advocacy and communication strategies to disseminate the tools, engage clinicians and researchers in dialogue, and build an active community that shares case reports and participates in discussion

2. Draft presentations on the above topics for the Informal Expert Consultation

Education

University degree in medicine, pharmacy, public health or other life science with an advanced degree in public health or health science-related field

Experience

Essential: At least 5 years of professional experience in regulation of health products, development of health products, rational use of health products, clinical trials, public health and/or health management information system

Desirable: Experience in infectious diseases, in policy analysis, and in working with international organizations and multiple stakeholders

Skills

Ability to write and present clearly on health-related subjects; ability to communicate well with a range of audiences; awareness of, and sensitivity to, cultural differences when working with colleagues and when presenting to audiences.

Use of language skills

Essential: Expert knowledge of English
Desirable: working knowledge of other WHO official language

Travel

Travel required to Geneva, Switzerland in June 2020 for a 2-day informal expert group consultation meeting.
Remuneration

Remuneration is based on the individual consultant contract with related academic and professional experience applied for the grade (P3-P4) using the WHO rate. The consultancy corresponds to approximately 85-100 days for the period of 10 months (40-50% part-time).

Application

Please send your CV and cover letter to Elizabeth (Linda) Aime-Mcdonald at aimel@who.int by 23 September 2019.