AN UNCOMMON APPROACH TO IMID RESEARCH

A valuable CRO offers an uncommon approach to managing your clinical trial needs. When medicine advances and long-held concepts evolve, you want to be working with experts who are versed in the new approaches and ready to meet your trial challenges. Those experts are at Worldwide Clinical Trials. **We're the cure for the common CRO.**

Traditionally viewed as organ-specific with an inflammatory component, seemingly unrelated inflammatory disorders are now known to share common pathways of immune mediation. While the exact identity of the inflammatory stimulus is often unknown, genetic linkages across indications continue to emerge. Treatment is no longer based on the physical site of disease, but rather targets underlying mechanisms. For you, this major paradigm shift means opportunities for therapeutic advances across multiple indications, including new classes of drugs that target inflammation through novel mechanisms as well as expanded market share and new markets. Of course, each immune-mediated inflammatory disorder (IMID) presents unique challenges.

**“GLOCAL” – GLOBAL AND LOCAL – EXPERTISE FOR YOUR SPECIFIC TRIAL**

IMIDs are a core specialty for Worldwide. Our team combines knowledge about inflammatory processes, clinical manifestations, and therapeutic targets with deep operational expertise in the challenges associated with advanced clinical research in this complex and crowded field. Worldwide professionals are attuned to the heterogeneous nature of IMIDs and able to deep-dive into individual disease areas, while also sharing experiential wisdom and best practices across trials. Further, because IMID drugs have potential clinical applications extending across different therapeutic areas, we collaborate with our other core therapeutic specialty division to provide you with optimal strategic, scientific, and operational solutions.

**WHAT CAN UNCOMMON DO FOR YOU?**

Due to exploding trial activity in this arena, competition for subjects has increased, particularly for those with unique clinical characteristics. Patient retention can be difficult in long-term studies. Sizeable placebo response rates have been observed in psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and ulcerative colitis (UC) trials. Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) are receiving broader attention across IMIDs. For example, the FDA is focusing more on PROs for inflammatory bowel disease, and there is growing interest in PROs for rheumatology. Worldwide’s proven solutions to these challenges include thorough site evaluation and selection based on precise metrics, careful recruitment and screening to confirm eligibility, frequent patient communication and education, intensive training of site personnel, and, if appropriate, electronic PROs using measures that are appropriate to specific disease entities. Our IMID team has helped develop several biological therapies and also offers biosimilar experience. Over years of successful collaboration, Worldwide specialists have maintained close relationships with key opinion leaders, major academic institutions, and seasoned practitioners. These relationships plus extensive investigator networks in the optimal countries for IMID therapy development ensure highly effective, “made-to-measure” strategies.
KEY SERVICES

Biostatistical analysis
Clinical monitoring
Data management
Data and Safety Monitoring Board charters and management
Drug depot services
Endpoint adjudication
Feasibility assessments
Global project management
Investigator meetings
Medical monitoring
Medical writing
Project management
Protocol design
Pharmacokinetics
Pharmacovigilance
Quality assurance
Regulatory affairs (includes consultancy)
Safety monitoring
Scientific consultancy
Site identification, recruitment, and management
Supply management and randomization
Third-party collaboration*

COMBINING SCIENCE, SERVICE, & SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR SUCCESS

Resources for you include:
- Consultation in clinical program development
- Access to prominent advisory boards for medical, scientific, and operational perspectives
- Well-established, global relationships with experienced investigative sites:
  - Located in countries that produce high-quality data and large subject pools
  - Proficient with all international criteria and disease staging methods
  - Meet most widely used standards of site performance (e.g., high recruitment and low screen-failure rates)
- Recruitment strategies tailored to each study and site
  - Knowledge of geographic influences on standards of care
  - Insight about local factors that can affect recruitment rates
- In-depth risk assessment and early implementation of mitigation strategies
- Extensive knowledge of local practices and regulations, including standard of care and reimbursement conventions
- Proactive management of regulatory body expectations

Benefits for you include:
- Fast decision-making and captured opportunities
- Optimized site selection, reliable performance, and preemptive study management
- Successful delivery of patient populations consistent with study design
- Meeting or exceeding recruitment targets within timelines

DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY DATA ON TIME & IN BUDGET

Case studies illustrate Worldwide’s uncommon approach to IMID research

Lupus Nephritis

A Phase II, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate safety, tolerability, and clinical efficacy of an investigational immunomodulator in adults with active lupus nephritis (LN). Challenges: complicated, narrow therapeutic indication; limited patient population; and strict inclusion / exclusion criteria. Solutions: Worldwide assessed feasibility and, based on our knowledge of the healthcare system and patient flow in study areas, selected sites with broad referral nets. Because an inclusion criterion was kidney biopsy within 6 months prior to baseline, and renal biopsy is routinely performed at nephrology sites in the country where the study was executed but not at rheumatology and internal medicine sites, we selected mostly nephrology sites. Worldwide actively participated in protocol amendment discussions and provided timely feedback from investigators, which was critical for achieving enrollment target with the protocol amendment. With our proactive approaches, the enrollment goal was exceeded.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

A Phase II, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized study to evaluate clinical efficacy of an investigational medicinal product with methotrexate (MTX) in adults with moderate to severe RA despite MTX. This study was performed in 11 countries spanning Central/Eastern Europe, the former Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to facilitate regulatory approval. Challenge: protocol required 140 enrollees with CRP >10 mg/L. Solution: To overcome a relatively high (correctly predicted) screen-failure rate of >50%. Worldwide identified a reliable and well-established network of sites. To avoid regulatory delays, Worldwide created two backup strategies: sponsor approval of 7 additional sites as replacements, if needed, and possible extension to 5 sites in Russia. With our experience, the recruitment period ended 2.5 months early.

* Worldwide partners with a range of specialized service providers, including centralized clinical and imaging laboratories, drug procurement and management specialists, and logistics support for transfer of temperature-controlled pharmacokinetic samples, etc.