

WCG IRB's Response to COVID-19 in 2020:

Supporting the Clinical Trial Industry When It Needed It Most

The year 2020 presented an unexpected challenge when COVID-19 became a worldwide pandemic. As countries across the globe reeled from the impact of COVID-19, the clinical research industry found itself in a new era working to understand and navigate the impact and to quickly find a treatment. During a time when the world needed it most, WCG IRB was there for its research partners from the day the pandemic hit: leading the way in expert perspectives, setting the pace for new best practices, and supporting the industry at every point in the journey. Here are the many ways we served our clients.

530

WCG IRB supported 530 clinical studies for COVID-19.

We were there from the beginning:



January 2020:

We reviewed an Expanded Access request for remdesivir for an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 in the U.S.



March 6, 2020:

WCG IRB announced a new program to facilitate IRB review of research protocols for COVID-19 vaccine and therapies, giving priority to IRB review and waiving initial protocol review fees.



March 9, 2020:

The first official clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine treatment came to WCG IRB, two days before the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic.

Within the 530 COVID-19 studies WCG IRB oversaw throughout 2020...



2,664

New Principal Investigators

...were approved across North America.

- And when the U.S. federal government developed Operation Warp Speed last May, all drug companies running those trials sent their protocols through WCG IRB's doors for review.
- Throughout the 530 studies WCG IRB oversaw, our dedication to clients and responsiveness never wavered. In fact, submission volumes increased without a decline in turnaround time or quality.
- And we continued our unwavering commitment to quality reviews when submissions volumes were at a record high:

+11K

COVID-19-related changes in research that WCG IRB oversaw.

~5K

COVID-19-related documents that WCG IRB translated—in more than 30 languages.

But the reviews didn't stop with our IRB teams. When scientific breakthroughs for COVID-19 were occurring, such as mRNA-based vaccine platforms, our expert team of gene therapy advisors stepped up and:

455

Established over 122 new IBCs, for a total of 455 active IBCs now managed by our internal team.

700

Conducted more than 590 IBC meetings while managing 700 IBC members across those committees.

None of this could have been accomplished without the extraordinary work of more than 50 operation team members, subject matter experts, and board members who worked around the clock to:

1

Conduct board meetings on Saturdays and Sundays, in addition to every other day of the week.

2

Communicate with clients via email, phone calls, and text messages.

3

Leverage a set of dedicated personnel resources – even at the executive level – to provide a daily touch base with clients that ensured visibility and transparency in the review process.

And now, when the world faces tremendous momentum to overcoming the pandemic, WCG IRB continues to provide this same dedication of customer service. In fact, we're already working across dozens of other COVID-19 studies, and we're implementing these processes and procedures across other therapeutic areas and indications for every trial.



We can apply this level of rigor and collaboration to your current or upcoming trial. Contact WCG's IRB today to find out how we can support you www.wcgclinical.com/irb.



¹Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Korean, Canton, Mandarin, Arabic, Haitian, Spanish Puerto Rico, Portuguese, French, Simplified Chinese, Hmong, Farsi, Brazilian Portuguese, Polish, Tagalog, Bengali, Romanian, Japanese, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, German, Thai, Bosnian, Creole, Burmese, Turkish, Hungarian, Greek, Swahili, Serbian