

# **PUBLIC HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES ON BLOOD DISORDERS**

BRINGING SCIENCE INTO PRACTICE

## **Inhibitor Prevention and Eradication: From NHLBI SoS to the INHIBIT Trial**

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Public Health Webinar Series on Blood Disorders

Steven Pipe, MD and Margaret Ragni, MD, MPH

# Inhibitor Formation

**Incidence:** 30% in severe hemophilia A

**Mechanism:** T-cell dependent B-cell response

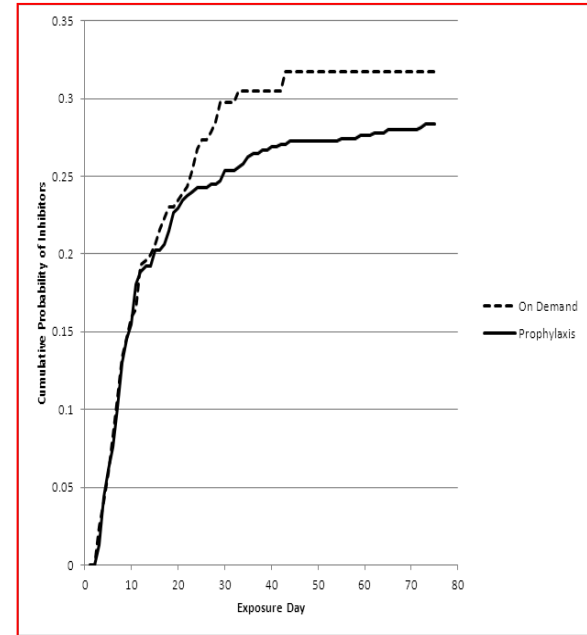
**Target:** Alloantibody to exogenous FVIII

**Treatment:** Bypass (rFVIIa, FEIBA)

**Morbidity:** Poorly controlled bleeding

- 2x hospitalizations
- 10x cost
- 3.5x mortality

**Goal:** Prevent and eradicate inhibitors



Gouw et al, 2013

# Origins of the Workshop

- CDC's Division of Blood Disorders (DBD) has been committed to the goal of reducing the occurrence of inhibitors – the most significant and costly complication affecting people with hemophilia today
- March 2012 – First Inhibitor Summit
  - Multi-stakeholder engagement
  - Informed the integration of inhibitor surveillance into the Community Counts Registry for Bleeding Disorders Surveillance
    - Funded by the CDC through a cooperative agreement awarded to the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network in partnership with the U.S. Hemophilia Treatment Center Network
    - Collects information about key aspects of inhibitor development, treatment and outcomes
    - DBD Reference Laboratory developed the methodology for sensitive and specific inhibitor testing which is performed on all eligible Registry participants

# Origins of the Workshop

- Jan 2017 – 2nd Inhibitor Summit
  - Need for collaboration across the entire US bleeding disorders community including key government, scientific, clinical and other bleeding disorders community stakeholders
  - Objectives:
    - Share information about the Registry and the current state of national inhibitor surveillance
    - Identify steps to maximize the accuracy and representativeness of national data on inhibitor occurrence
    - Determine the strategy to maintain the accuracy and validity of inhibitor testing methods
    - **Explore the need for a national, coordinated inhibitor science agenda**

# Origins of the Workshop

- Subjects needed for studies in this area (primarily previously untreated patients) are a **precious resource** and efforts should be made to **coordinate studies** so that the **maximum benefit** can be obtained from each study subject
- Oversight to assure that only the **best science** is performed and funding for the studies should be adequate to cover the costs of obtaining high quality data
- **Multifaceted education and marketing activities** be directed to the patient community well in advance of upcoming trials to stimulate interest and participation
- Development of multi-disciplinary group working to develop and implement an **integrated scientific and public health agenda** as well as to establish definitions and common data elements
- Representatives from a **wide variety of disciplines** should be included to facilitate the generation of new ideas and approaches
- **Agreement from the bleeding disorder community** to proceed with regimented cooperative studies that have been appropriately vetted

# Goal of the Workshop

To solicit hemophilia community-wide input into the development of a coordinated US- based blueprint for future basic, translational, and clinical research focused on FVIII immunogenicity and FVIII inhibitor prevention/eradication

# Workshop Participation

More than 200 registered participants from 29 states and 9 countries, with half of registrants from academia and Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs), 20% from industry, 18% from the Federal Government, and 8% representing patient advocacy. Participants who could not attend in person were able to participate in the workshop through videocasting.

# Executive Steering Committee

- Executive Steering Committee (ESC) established
  - Workshop Co-Chairs: *Steve Pipe, Denise Sabatino*
  - NHLBI: *Keith Hoots, Donna Di Michele*
  - CDC: *Mike Soucie, Craig Hooper*
  - Community/Societies Representative: *Diane Nugent*
- Mandate:
  - Establish focus/leadership for Scientific WGs
  - Oversee the scientific WG activities
  - Develop the SOS Workshop agenda



National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  
State of the Science Workshop

***Factor VIII Inhibitors:  
Generating a National Blueprint for  
Future Research***

National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland  
***May 15-16, 2018***

***Registration & Information***  
<https://factorviiinhibitors.eventbrite.com>

### Infrastructure support

- Leverage current national data collection efforts

- Establish and optimize automated clinical and patient-entered data transfer

- Use standard outcome measures across studies to allow data integration, including from international sources

- Streamline protocols, contracting, and informed consent processes, including use of single IRBs

- Centralize tracking of biorepository specimens and data for timely utilization

### Resources/partnerships

- Resource Hemophilia Treatment Centers for data entry and bio-specimen collection

- Optimize private-public collaborations and funding opportunities

## Patient engagement

Engage patients to identify patient-important outcomes in all stages of research

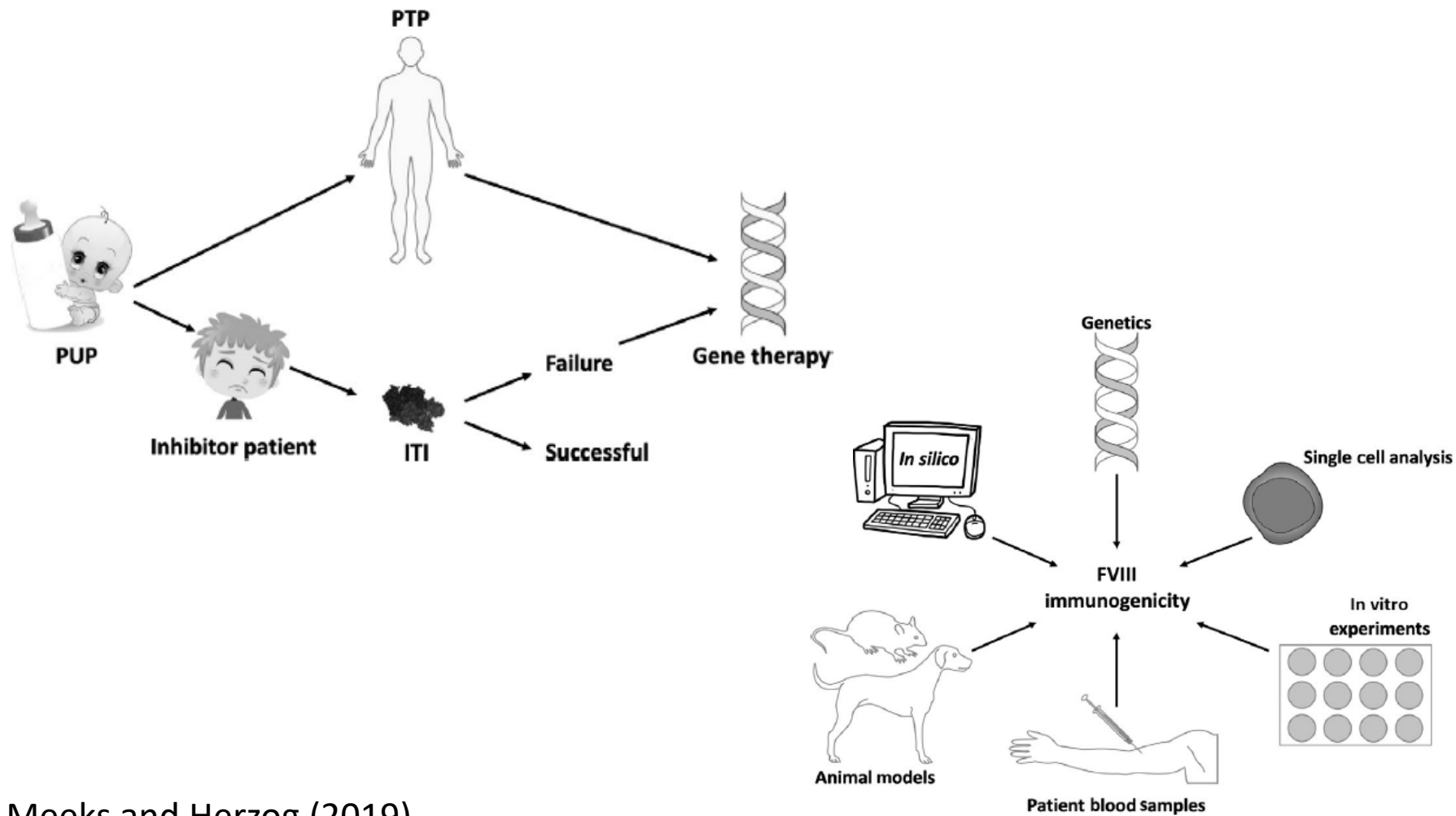
Build strong collaborative relationships with patient organizations to identify important research questions and disseminate new knowledge

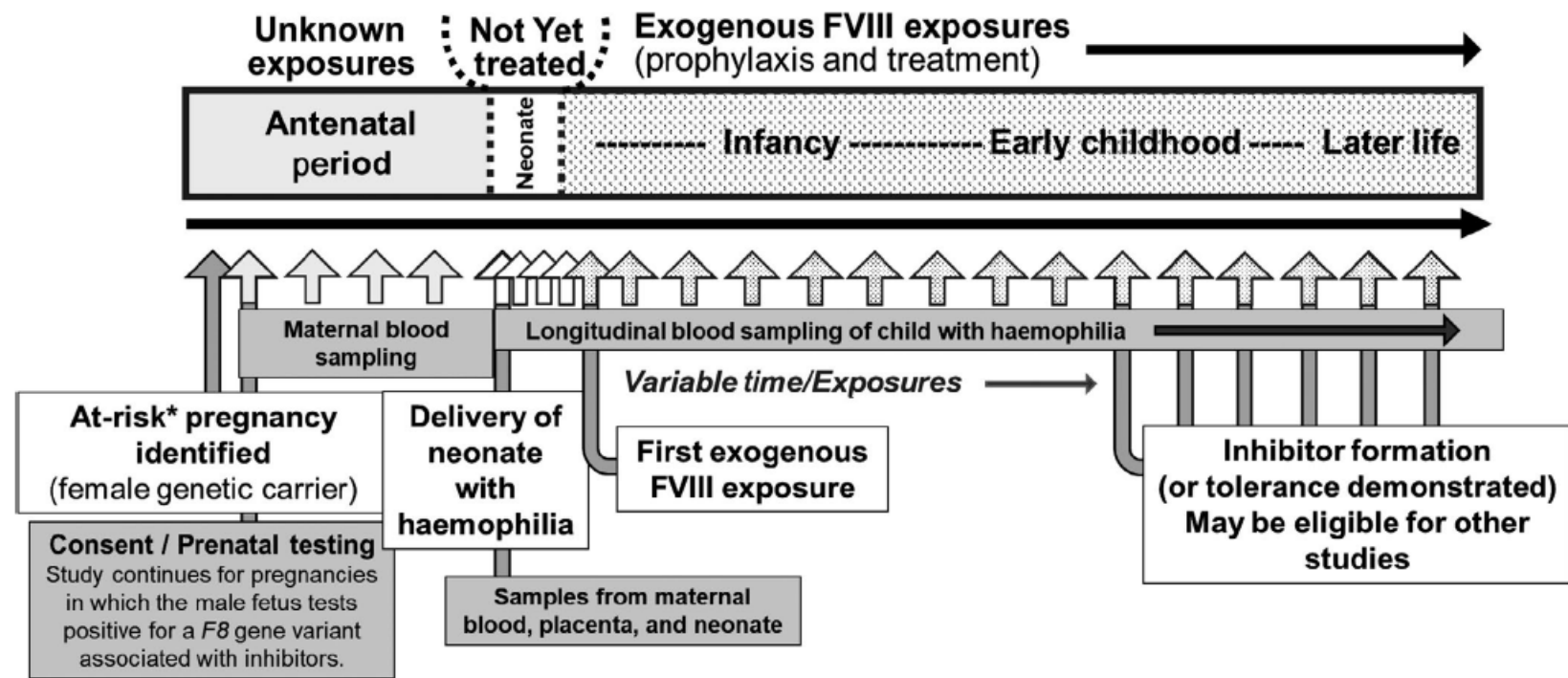
## Training opportunities

In human subjects, research and data sharing issues for researchers, clinicians, and participants

In study design and analysis, including epidemiology and data science and bioinformatics

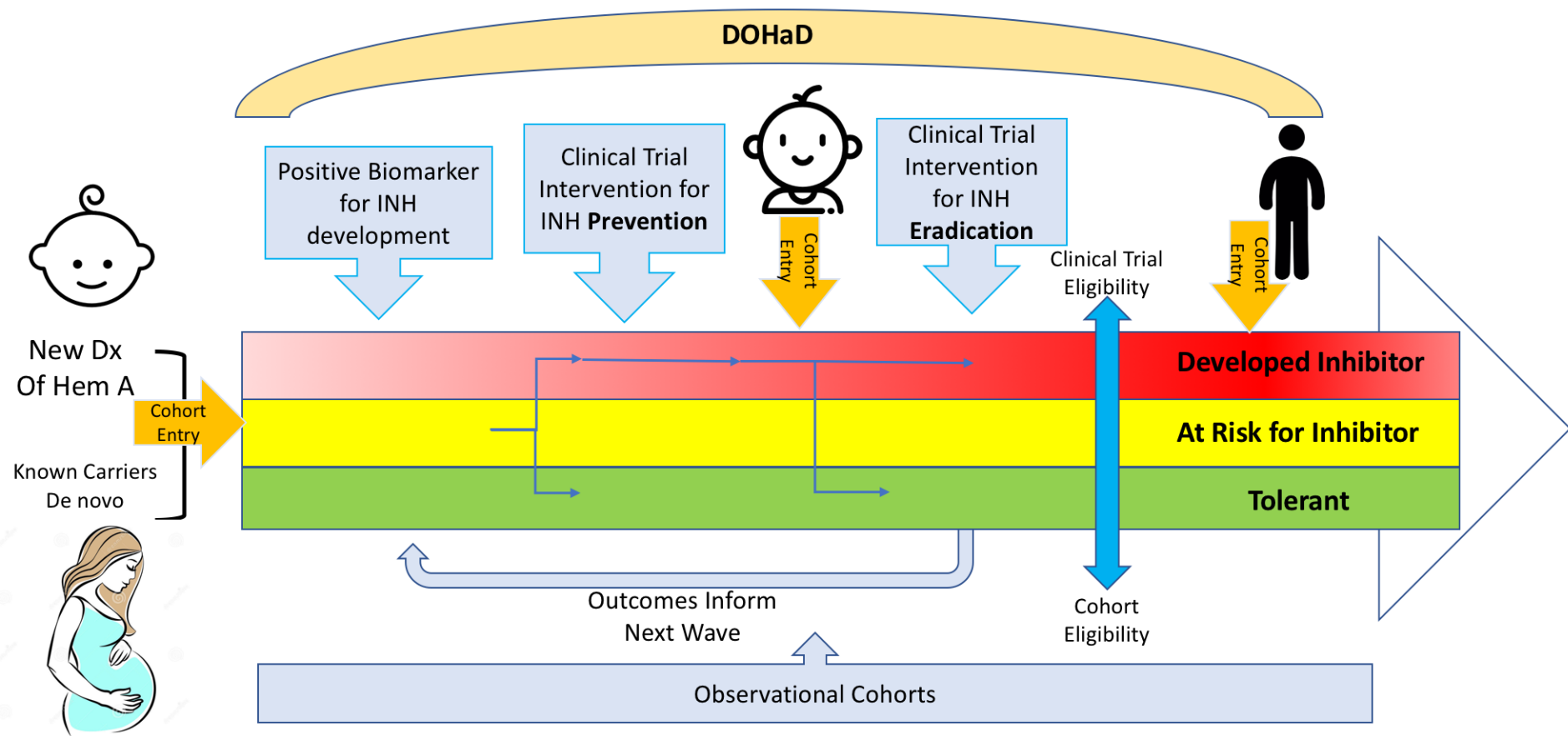
- Scientific Priorities
  - Activation signals and immune regulation that shape the response to factor VIII
    - Innate/early immune recognition of FVIII
    - Adaptive immune responses
    - Immune regulation and tolerance
  - Utility of non-animal models to help predict inhibitor formation
  - How the site of FVIII expression, its structure and VWF determine immunogenicity and tolerance
    - FVIII expressed in gene therapy
    - FVIII interactions with VWF
    - FVIII molecules with altered structure





\*a woman with a known or suspected *F8* genotype that is associated with inhibitor formation

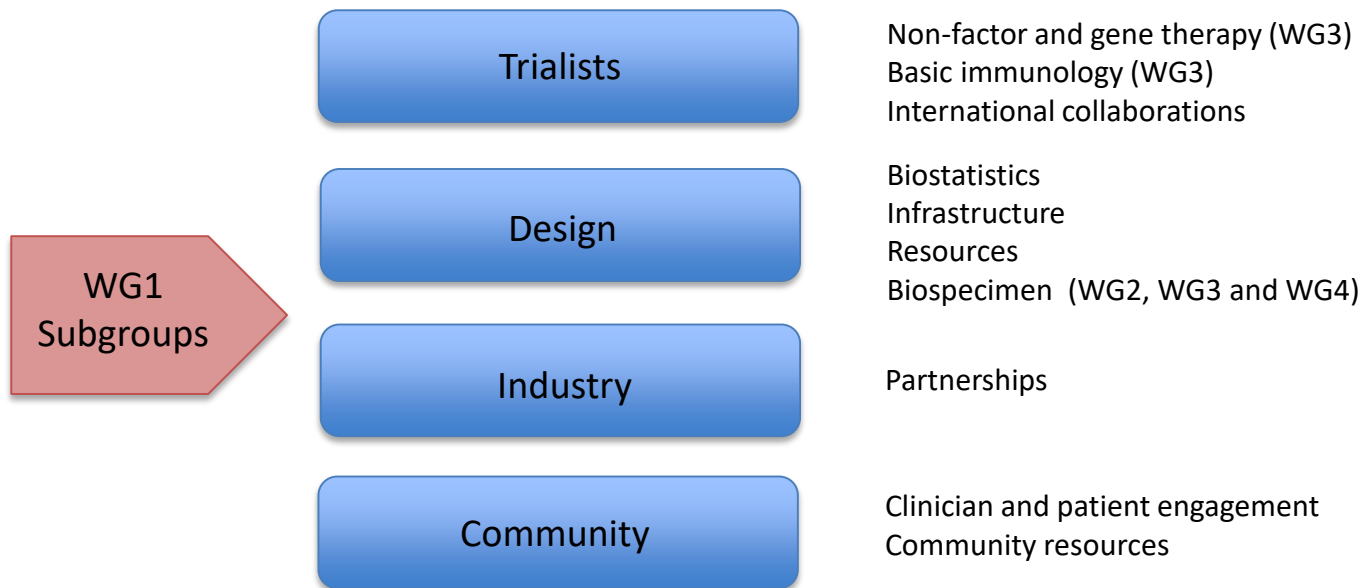
# Inhibitor Investigation Over the Lifespan



## Scientific Priorities:

1. Longitudinal outcomes/surveillance
2. Observational Cohort Discovery

3. Subject Discovery for Clinical Trials
4. Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD)





## **SoS: General Goals for Clinical Trials**

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1. Define resources and partnerships to facilitate clinical trials
2. Leverage and support the HTC infrastructure
3. Embed mechanistic studies into clinical trials
4. Optimize public-private partnerships in clinical trials
5. Engage the patient community in clinical trials
6. Embed training opportunities within clinical trials

## **SoS: Specific Goals for Clinical Trials**

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1. Challenges of rare disease clinical trials
2. Statistical considerations
3. Master Protocol concept
4. Coordinated Clinical Trials Network
5. Design Prevention, Eradication Trials

# 1. Challenges of Rare Disease Trials

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- Patients are limited: 1.82 PUP/HTC/yr
- Outcomes are rare: 30% develop inhibitors
- Competition for patients is high: pharma, non-randomized trials
- Partnerships are needed: pharma/ government/ community
- Classical RCT is not possible: too few patients, too many sites, \$/time
- HTCs require resources: 40% need nurses, technicians
- RCTs requires infrastructure: 30-40 HTCs/ HCTG/ partnerships
- Optimal approach is unknown: prevent and eradicate inhibitors

## 2. Statistical Considerations

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- **Historical controls, registries, cohorts**

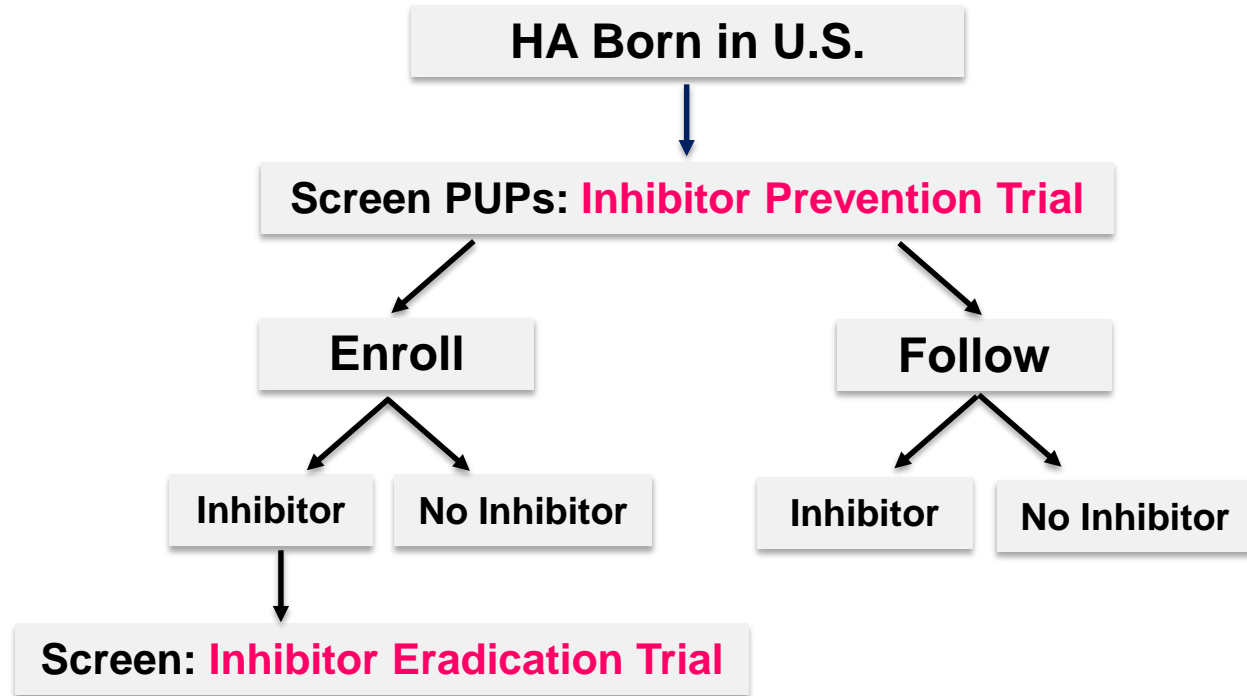
- Use historical data to reduce sample size, preferential randomization
- Utilize CDC surveillance registry, international registries
- Utilize databases, central labs as platform to launch clinical trials

- **Master Protocol**

- Follow those enrolled and screened for inhibitor development
- Establish baseline pre-inhibitor data/specimens
- Establish inhibitor natural history among screened subject

### 3. Master Protocol

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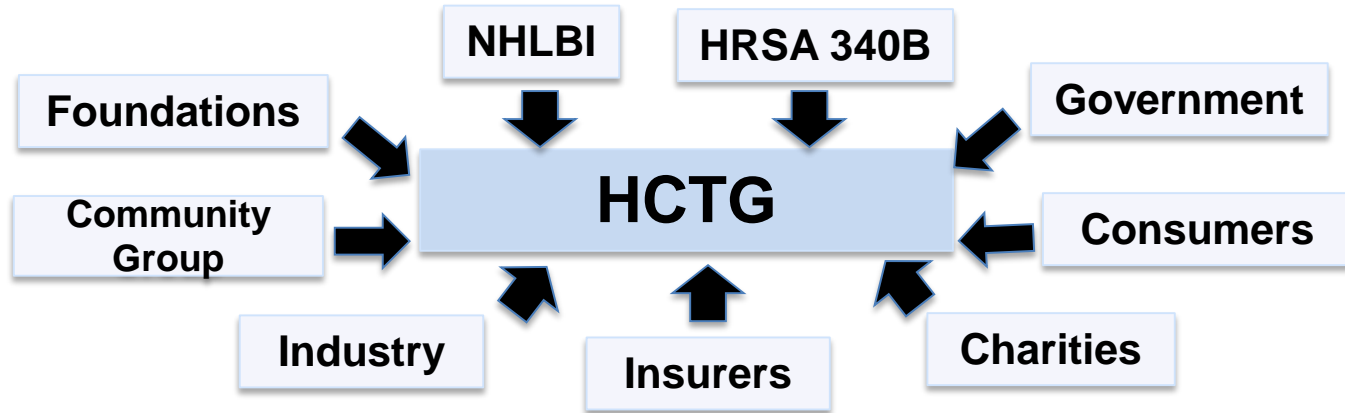
## 4. Clinical Trials Network

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- Provide HTC with nurse coordinator, technician support
- Implement system for biospecimen and data collection
- Incorporate standardized outcome measures
- Incorporate mechanistic studies to study FVIII tolerance
- Engage the patient community
- Train early stage investigators
- Establish resources and partnerships to facilitate clinical trials

## 4. Clinical Trial Infrastructure

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**Partnerships, Resources:** Leverage clinical trial infrastructure  
HCTG = Hemophilia Clinical Trials Group

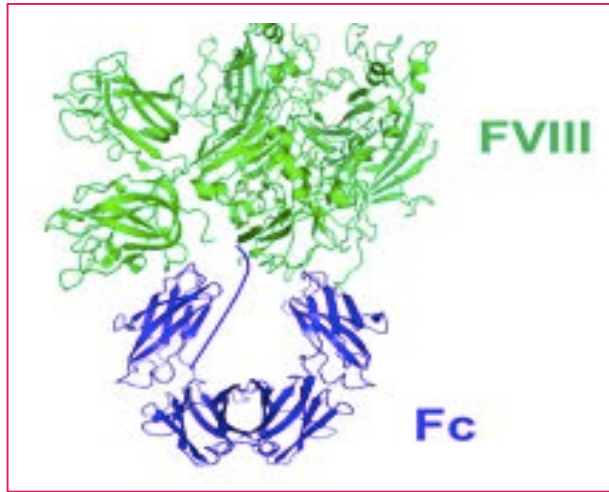
## 5. Design Trials to Prevent, Eradicate Inhibitors

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- Incorporate novel therapies into trials
- Review inhibitor prevention, eradication data
- Define state of equipoise
- Incorporate adaptive design into trials platform



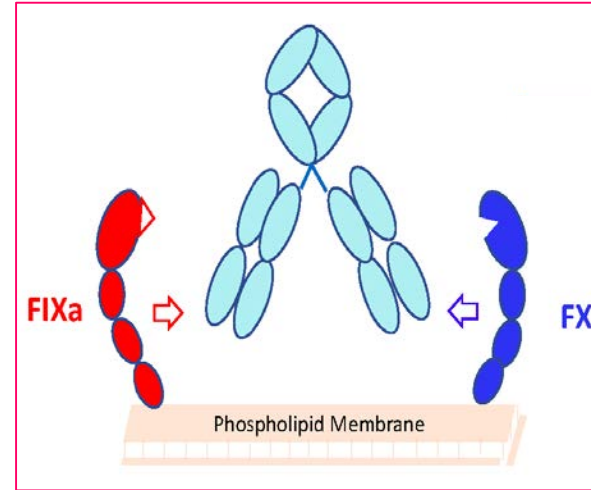
# Incorporate Novel Therapies into Trials



Eloctate

## Fc Fusion Protein

Extends FVIII half-life, given IV  
Promotes T regs, VIII tolerance



Emicizumab

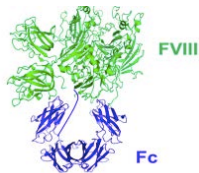
## Bispecific Monoclonal Antibody

Mimics FVIII, binds IXa, X, given SQ  
Promotes hemostasis, avoids FVIII

# Review Inhibitor Prevention, Eradication Data

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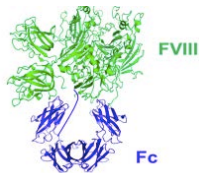
## Inhibitor Prevention:



- **Eloctate** reduced inhibitor incidence  
Anti-VIII ~30%, in A-LONG Trial (*N=95, Konigs et al*)
- **Eloctate** reduced inhibitor titer, weekly  
Anti-VIII = 43.0 BU in rFVIII-rx PUP (*N=2, Ragni et al*)  
Anti-VIII = 1.4 BU in rFVIII-Fc-rx cousin

# Review Inhibitor Prevention, Eradication Data

## Inhibitor Prevention:



- **Eloctate** reduced inhibitor incidence

Anti-VIII ~30%, in A-LONG Trial

(N=95, *Konigs et al*)

- **Eloctate** reduced inhibitor titer, weekly

Anti-VIII = 43.0 BU in rFVIII-rx PUP

(N=2, *Ragni et al*)

Anti-VIII = 1.4 BU in rFVIII-Fc-rx cousin

## Inhibitor Eradication:

- **Eloctate** reduced time to ITI to 3-8 months

Time to ITI = 2.7 months

(N=3, *Malec et al*)

Time to ITI = 6.9 months

(N=4, *Carcao et al*)

- **Emicizumab + rFVIII** reduced bleeds in ITI

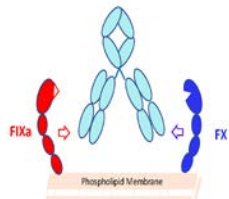
Time to ITI = NA

(N=3, *Batsuli et al*)

- **Emicizumab + Eloctate** reduced bleeds in ITI

Time to ITI = NA

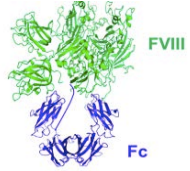
(N=1, *Batsuli et al*)



# Define Equipoise

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Eloctate:



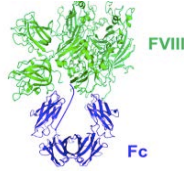
- **Prevent**: While eloctate induces Tregs and promotes tolerance, inhibitors still develop in 30% of PUPs.  
**Eradicate**: Eloctate shortens ITI in < 10 mos in small studies

Does eloctate sufficiently reduce inhibitors and shorten ITI to justify its use?

# Define Equipoise

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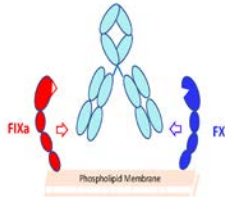
Eloctate:



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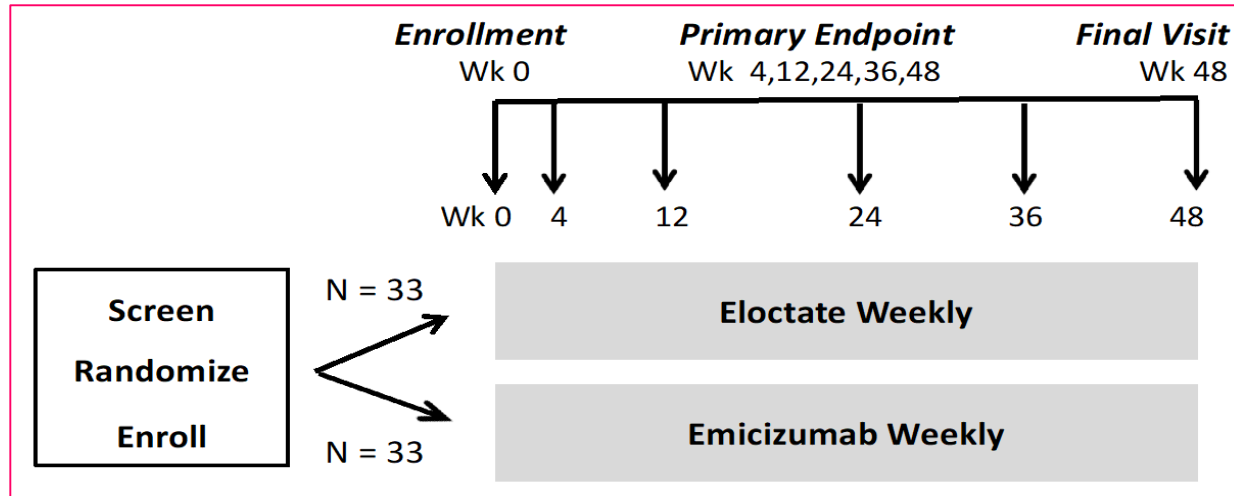
Emicizumab:



- **Prevent & Eradicate**: While emicizumab provides hemostasis and avoids FVIII exposure, if breakthrough bleeds require FVIII, this may trigger “danger” and inhibitors and slow ITI.

Does emicizumab reduce or just delay inhibitors, or shorten ITI sufficiently to justify its use?

# Clinical Trial #1: Inhibitor Prevention



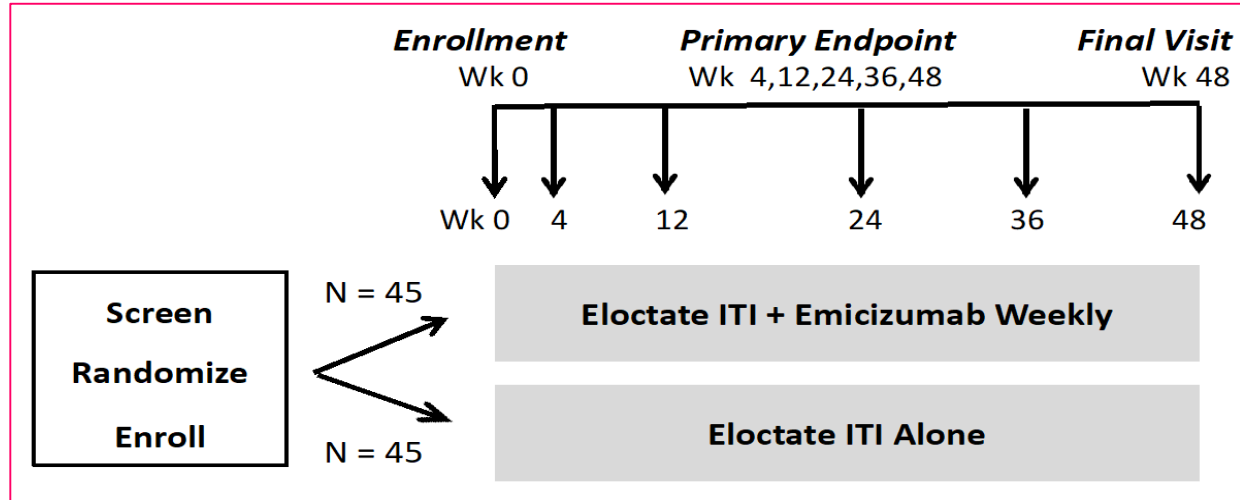
**Hypothesis:** EMI reduces bleeds (danger), yet less immunogenic than FVIII.

**Intervention:** Weekly **Eloctate vs. Emicizumab** before 1<sup>st</sup> bleed.

**1° Endpoint:** Inhibitor development: anti-VIII > 5 NBU at 48 weeks.

**2° Endpoints:** Bleeding, mechanistic studies: ELISPOT, microbiome, precision med

# Clinical Trial #2: Inhibitor Eradication



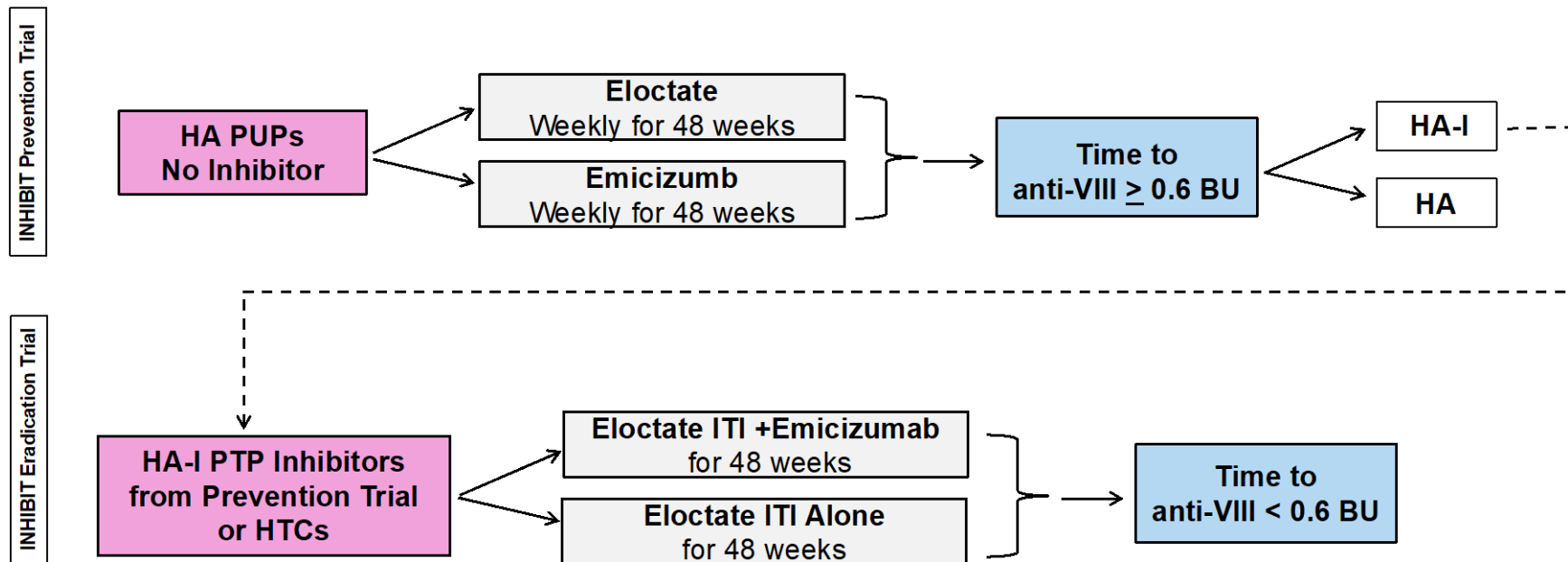
**Hypothesis:** EMI reduces bleeds (danger), yet less immunogenic than FVIII.

**Intervention:** **Eloctate ITI +/- Emicizumab** weekly in PTPs.

**1° Endpoint:** Inhibitor development: anti-VIII > 5 NBU at 48 weeks.

**2° Endpoints:** Bleeding, mechanistic studies: ELISPOT, microbiome, precision med

# The INHIBIT Clinical Trials Platform

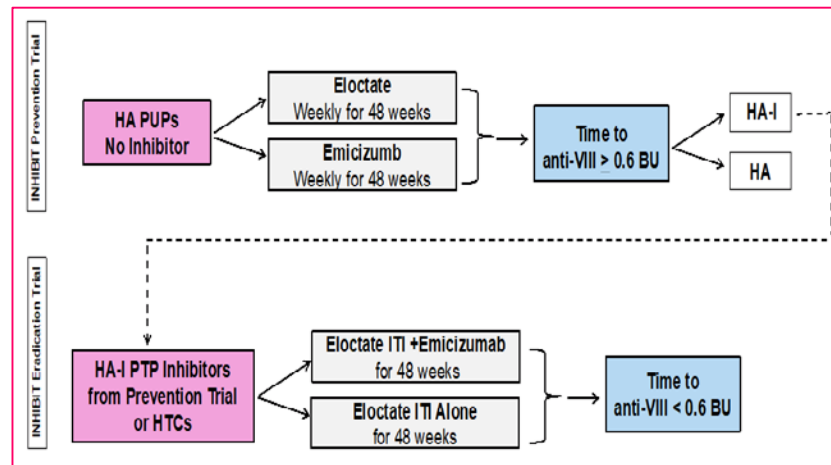




# The INHIBIT Clinical Trials Platform

## Advantages of Adaptive Design:

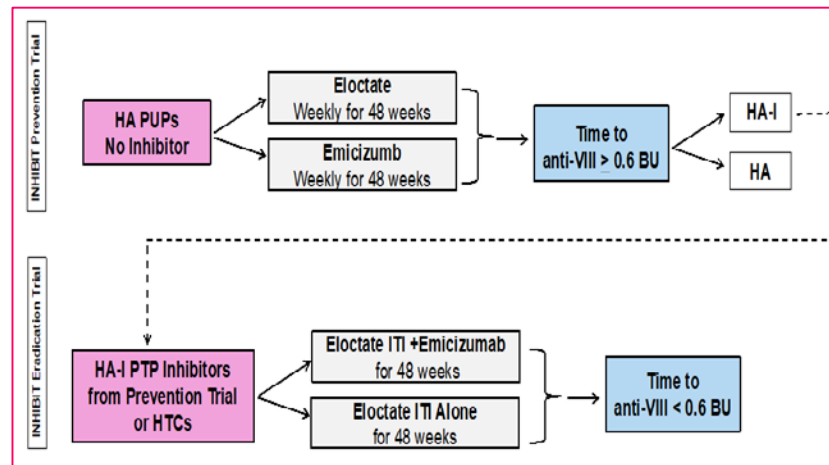
1. Efficient use of historic data
2. Preferential 1:4 randomization to novel drug
3. Two linked trials: same outcome, visits, labs
4. Validation of blood draws for small volumes
5. Mechanistic assays to study tolerance:  
ELISPOT/ cytokine/ omics/ registry
6. Future incorporation of novel drugs



# The INHIBIT Clinical Trials Platform

## Work in Progress:

1. Set up a coordinated Hemophilia Clinical Trials Network.
2. Set up Precision Medicine Registry within trial: proteomics, microbiomics.
3. Engage community: hold town meetings, engage Chapters, Regional HTC's.
4. Provide training opportunities for early stage investigators.
5. Set up single-IRB and relying agreements.



# *Questions & Answers*

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**This webinar was brought to you by CDC's Division of Blood Disorders. We thank the Hemophilia Federation of America for hosting today's webinar.**

Questions about this webinar series? Please contact Cynthia Sayers at [CSayers@cdc.gov](mailto:CSayers@cdc.gov).

This webinar will be archived at

[www.cdc.gov.ncbddd/blooddisorders/webinar.html](http://www.cdc.gov.ncbddd/blooddisorders/webinar.html)

# **PUBLIC HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES ON BLOOD DISORDERS**

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*March 5, 2020 -- 2 to 3 pm Eastern*

## ***Selection of a Risk Assessment Model for VTE Prevention in Hospitalized Medical Patients***

**Holger J. Schünemann, MD,  
MSc, PhD, FRCPC**

Professor of Clinical  
Epidemiology and of Medicine  
Departments of Health Research  
Methods, Evidence, and Impact  
and of Medicine  
Director, Cochrane Canada and  
McMaster GRADE Centre  
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**Andrea Darzi , MD, MPH, PhD  
Candidate**

Project Coordinator, Cochrane  
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