Evaluating the Negative Symptoms of Schizophrenia in Clinical Trials: A Public Meeting

Friday, August 16, 2024, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (EDT)

Agenda

9 am — Welcome (5 min)

Teresa Buracchio, MD
Director, Office of Neuroscience (ON), Office of New Drugs (OND), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

9:05 am — Introduction: (20 min)

Topics:

- Description of negative symptoms
- Historical context
- Terms and definitions
- What do we already agree on?

Bernard Fischer, MD
Deputy Director, Division of Psychiatry (DP), ON, OND, CDER, FDA

9:25 am — Opening Remarks: Lived Experience (15 min)

Topics:

- How negative symptoms impact people
- What's important to target?

Brandon Staglin, MSHA
President, One Mind (OneMind.org)
Rutherford, CA

9:40 am — Session 1: Brain Circuits and Relationship to Cognition (30 min)

This session will be a brief overview of the current science on neurotransmitter systems and brain circuits related to negative symptoms and overlap with cognition

Moderator:
Roberta Rasetti, MD, PhD
Clinical Reviewer, DP, ON, OND, CDER, FDA

Speaker: (20 minutes)
Sophia Vinogradov, MD
Head, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Science
Donald W. Hastings Endowed Chair in Psychiatry
University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, MN

Q&A: 10 minutes

10:10 am **10-minute Break**

10:20 am **Session 2: Study Design (80 min)**

This session will focus on challenges in designing studies to assess effectiveness for negative symptoms.

Topics:

- Designing studies of drugs to be administered adjunctive to antipsychotics
- Designing studies of drugs to be administered as monotherapy
- Identifying appropriate participants
- Duration of studies

Moderator:

Rachael Blackman, MD, PhD

Clinical Reviewer, DP, ON, OND, CDER, FDA

Speaker One: Considerations for drugs designed to be adjunctive to antipsychotics (20 minutes)

Christoph Correll, MD
Professor of Psychiatry and Molecular Medicine
The Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell
Hempstead, NY USA
Investigator, Center for Psychiatric Neuroscience
Feinstein Institute for Medical Research
Manhasset, NY, USA

Speaker Two: Considerations for drugs designed to be monotherapy (20 minutes)

Stephen Brannan, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Karuna Therapeutics
Boston, MA

Respondents: (40 minutes)

- **Tiffany R. Farchione, MD**
  Director, DP, ON, OND, CDER, FDA
- **Peiling Yang, PhD**
  Office of Biostatistics, CDER, FDA
- **Robert W. Buchanan, MD**
  Professor, Department of Psychiatry
  University of Maryland School of Medicine
  Maryland Psychiatric Research Center
  Baltimore, MD
- **Michael Sand, PhD**
  CEO, S2 Consulting, LLC
  Danbury, CT

- **Richard S.E. Keefe, PhD**
  Professor Emeritus in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
  Faculty Network Member of the Duke Institute for Brain Sciences
  Behavioral Medicine & Neurosciences Division
  Duke University School of Medicine
  Durham, NC
- **Nina R. Schooler, PhD**
  Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
  State University of New York
  Downstate Health Sciences University
  Brooklyn NY

11:40 am **Lunch (60 min)**

12:40 pm **Session 3: Outcomes Part 1, Meaningfulness (70 min)**

This session will focus on the cultural considerations of assessing negative symptoms and how to establish a clinically meaningful change.

Topics:

- Cultural differences in assessing negative symptoms—what should we do?
- Determining a clinically meaningful difference: Do we need co-primary endpoints? Are clinical rating scales enough?

Moderator:

Michelle Campbell, PhD
Associate Director of Stakeholder Engagement, ON, OND, CDER, FDA

Speaker One: Cultural considerations when rating negative symptoms (20 minutes)
Eric Jarvis, MD
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
McGill University
Director of the Cultural Consultation Service, the First Episode Psychosis Program, and the Culture and Psychosis Working Group at the Jewish General Hospital
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Speaker Two: Determining a meaningful change (20 minutes)
Laura Swett, PhD
Reviewer, Division of Clinical Outcome Assessment, CDER, FDA

Respondents: (30 minutes)

- **Matthew Racher, MSW, CRPS**
  Certified Peer Specialist
  Miami, FL
- **Deanna L. Kelly, PharmD, BCPP**
  Dr. William and Carol Carpenter Professor of Psychiatry for Mental Illness Research
  MPower Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State

Acting Director, Maryland Psychiatric Research Center
Chief, Treatment Research Program
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

- **Mark G. Opler, PhD, MPH**
  Chief Research Officer
  Clinical Research Solutions
  WCG, Inc.
  New York, NY
- **Bonnie Kaiser, PhD, MPH** (virtual)
  Associate Professor, jointly appointed in the Department of Anthropology and the Global Health Program, University of California San Diego
  San Diego, CA

1:50 pm **10-minute Break**

2:00 pm **Session 4: Outcomes Part 2, Scales and Other Measures (90 min)**

This session will focus on issues related to clinical outcome measures for the negative symptoms of schizophrenia.

Topics:

- Review of clinical assessments, including new rating scales
- What is the best scale to use in a clinical trial (e.g., sensitivity to change)?
- Measuring change beyond clinical ratings (e.g., digital phenotyping)

Moderator:

Heidi Wehring, PharmD, BCPP
Clinical Reviewer, DP, ON, OND, CDER, FDA

Speaker One: Brief review of clinical rating scales and new initiatives for rating negative symptoms (including the Clinical Assessment Interview for Negative Symptoms, CAINS; 20 minutes)
Jack J. Blanchard, PhD
Associate Provost for Enterprise Resource Planning
and Professor Department of Psychology
University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Speaker Two: New initiatives for assessing negative symptoms (including the Brief Negative Symptom Scale, BNSS, and digital phentotyping; 30 minutes)
Gregory P. Strauss, PhD
Associate Professor
Director: Clinical Affective Neuroscience Laboratory
Director: Georgia Psychiatric Risk Evaluation Program
Department of Psychology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

Respondents: (40 minutes)

- **David Reasner, PhD**
  Director, Division of Clinical Outcome Assessment, CDER, FDA
- **Anthony O. Ahmed, PhD, HSP**
  Associate Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry
  Vice Chair for Psychology, Department of Psychiatry
  Attending Psychologist, Psychotic Disorders Program
  New York-Presbyterian/Westchester
  Weill Cornell Medicine
  White Plains, NY
- **Stephen R. Marder, MD**
  Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences
  David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles
  Los Angeles, CA
- **Brian Kirkpatrick, MD**
  Professor, Psychiatric Research Institute
  University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
  Little Rock, AR
- **William P. Horan, PhD**
  Executive Director of Clinical Development at Bristol Myers Squibb
  Washington, DC and Los Angeles, CA

3:30 pm **Wrap-up**

Summary:
Bernard Fischer, MD
Deputy Director, DP, ON, OND, CDER, FDA

4 pm **Adjourn**