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Executive Director

The Clinical Alliance for Research and Education – Infectious Diseases (CARE-ID) Marks Its First Month in Expanding the Science for Effective COVID-19 Treatments

Partnering with Lilly and Pfizer has lifted CARE-ID to a new level

Annandale, VA; September 1, 2020 – Beginning in the months of July and August this year, CARE-ID committed its research experience and resources to the fight against COVID-19. In doing so, it not only continues its role in advancing medicines for a variety of infectious diseases, now it is a notable participant in expanding the science for effective COVID-19 treatments. The first step came in partnering with Lilly and Company (Lilly) to conduct a clinical research study, BLAZE-1, to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of LY-CoV555 (an antibody therapy) in patients with early mild to moderate COVID-19. The promise of this drug is to help newly diagnosed patients clear the SARS-CoV-2 virus faster. The second, very quick, step was continuing the longstanding collaboration in place with Pfizer. In this case it was to conduct clinical research to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of its SARS-CoV-2-RNA vaccine candidate against COVID-19. The promise of a vaccine against COVID-19 is nearly impossible to overestimate in today’s fight against this pandemic disease.

“When we committed to both these studies at nearly the same time, I knew we would have to gear up faster than usual”, said Steve Poretz, RN, MSHA, Executive Director at CARE-ID.

“Coordinating with the study sponsors and our two principal investigators, David A. Wheeler, MD, FACP, FIDSA, (for Lilly study) and Donald M. Poretz, MD, FACP, FIDSA (for Pfizer study) meant many long hours for all involved. This is especially true for Drs. Poretz and Wheeler (founder and senior partner, respectively, of Infectious Diseases Physicians, Inc. (IDP), a private clinical practice) since they routinely see patients most days in their office. Nonetheless, we have rearranged resources and gotten everything set in place in record time.”

“We are very pleased with what we’ve been able to accomplish with BLAZE-1 so far. In just a few concentrated weeks work the initial target for total enrollment in this study has been met”, said Dr. Wheeler. “We are also grateful to the many general, family, and emergency practice doctor colleagues who have referred recently diagnosed patients to us. It is gratifying to work with them as well as Lilly on this study. Clinical trials like BLAZE-1 are essential in testing treatments for COVID-19 which, if successful, represent medicines which can be used to treat those most at risk of severe illness, such as the elderly and immunocompromised”

“While we now move the Lilly study into its monitoring and data collection stage, we are at the point of going full speed ahead in the first weeks of what will be a larger effort for the Pfizer vaccine study,” said Executive Director Poretz. “The vaccine study will involve many more participants. But our initial 2 weeks of volunteer recruiting has turned out better than we expected. With so much general media attention to the importance of a vaccine, people seem to be more aware and energized to participate.”

Pfizer has established a team of clinical researchers in 120 clinical investigational sites around the world, including 39 states across the United States to accelerate enrolling and managing over 15,000 volunteers who are expected to participate in this study. “Clinical trials of this magnitude are vital in testing potential defenses against COVID-19. These prove the worth of infectious disease clinical research in protecting significant portions of the population from diseases,” said Donald M. Poretz, MD. “CARE-ID is very pleased to again join the front lines of the fight against COVID-19, and we are honored to participate in this most important investigational vaccine study with Pfizer.”

For more information on the Lilly study at <http://careidresearch.com/studies.html>

For more information on the Pfizer study at <http://careidresearch.com/studies.html>

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About CARE-ID

CARE-ID conducts clinical research trials in the field of infectious diseases with particular focus on the safety and confidentiality of our participants, quality of our data, and integrity of our results. We partner with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to develop experimental therapies for both the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.