



Advancing Parkinson's trial designs

Zoom Webinar: January 29th, 2024 at 5:00 pm GMT

Traditionally, clinical trials compare one treatment against one placebo (a drug with no therapeutic effect). While this method is effective, setting up each individual trial takes a significant amount of time, funding, and consideration. It is like building a stadium every time there is a football match and dismantling it after the game – expensive and inefficient. To address this, researchers are exploring ways to improve this process. In recent years, MAMS platforms have gained growing interest.

What is a MAMS platform?

A **multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS) platform** is a clinical trial model that involves testing multiple treatment groups against one placebo. This allows for several drugs to be tested in the time it would usually take to test one, accelerating the progression of therapies through the drug development pipeline. MAMS platforms are adaptive as well, allowing for new treatments to be added as others conclude or swapped in if drugs are not showing positive signs during interim evaluations. This flexibility effectively speeds up the trial process, not only by enabling multiple treatments to be tested simultaneously, but also by providing the infrastructure necessary to support new clinical trials and facilitate transitions between different phases of clinical testing.

The MAMS model has already been successfully applied in other conditions, such as prostate cancer, and researchers in recent years have been exploring this for Parkinson's as well. This webinar invites panellists involved in a variety of upcoming and ongoing MAMS projects in the UK and Europe to discuss their justification, set-up, and impact on the research landscape. *Learn more about each of these projects below.*



EJS ACT-PD

The Edmond J Safra Accelerating Clinical Trials for Parkinson's Disease (EJS ACT-PD) is an upcoming MAMS platform for Parkinson's. Led by researchers at UCL, this will be the first MAMS platform for Parkinson's in the UK. It will host phase 2 and phase 3 trials - the later stages of clinical testing - and assess potentially disease-modifying drugs for Parkinson's.



OCTOPUS

OCTOPUS is the first MAMS platform for multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is a condition affecting the brain and spinal cord. In MS, the immune system mistakenly targets nerve cells, leading to nerve damage. Based in the UK and run by a research team at UCL, this platform launched in April 2023 with the aim of finding treatments able to slow down disability progression in people with MS.

SLEIPNIR & HYDRA

A challenge in drug discovery for Parkinson's is finding treatments able to reach the brain and do so well enough that they have an effect on the nerve cells implicated in Parkinson's. SLEIPNIR is an upcoming MAMS platform in Norway that will help evaluate this for potential Parkinson's treatments. Gathering this additional evidence will help researchers determine which treatments should move forward into further clinical testing. The outcomes of this platform will feed into larger MAMS platforms, such as ACT-PD and HYDRA - an upcoming Norwegian phase 3 platform.