

TCS/21/43 - First in Human Clinical Trial of SARS-CoV-2 Allogeneic Virus Specific T cells.

The successful roll out of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus has mitigated the incidence of severe disease and is helping the UK to live with continuing transmission of the virus in the community. However, the risk of infection and severe disease remain high in those who are unable to mount effective immune responses due to disease or treatment. There is also evidence that persistent infection can increase the risk of generating new virus variants which pose a broader public health concern. SNBTS has long-standing experience in the treatment of viral disease using T cells donated by healthy virus-exposed volunteers (Virus Specific T cells (VST)). These allogeneic VST are stored as cryopreserved cell stocks which can be rapidly deployed and have been used to treat over 100 immunosuppressed people with Epstein-Barr Virus-driven malignancy. We have now adapted our methods to manufacture stocks of anti-SARS-CoV-2 VST for treatment of HLA-matched patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection. We seek funding for the initial First in Human Phase I safety study of this product at a single site, which will be a prelude to a Phase II clinical trial of effectiveness in people who are immunocompromised and develop SARS-CoV-2 infection.