



01 September 2023

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Dear Nicki,

Please find below an interim report for the Conquer CF Innovation Award funded project titled "Establishing a pipeline for repurposing anti-inflammatory drugs to tackle viral-induced exacerbations in children with cystic fibrosis".

Due to significant delays related to accessing samples from children with cystic fibrosis from a local biobank, the start of this study was extensively delayed. To mitigate these delays further, we obtained ethics approval in January 2023, with a collaborator at Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne, Australia, but this did not eventuate due to the length of time required for prospective sample collection. We therefore obtained an ethics approval to access samples from the tissue biobank at the Marisco Lung Institute at the University of North Carolina, USA, and received bronchial airway cells from adults with cystic fibrosis in July 2023.

We have now completed sample collection for half of the study, with the other half to be collected in two weeks. We will proceed with sample extraction and send for RNA sequencing in early October, with the aim to start data analysis at the start of November. Below is an updated list of remaining milestones with an estimated timeline:

| Milestone | Completion Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Start of epithelial culturing | Complete |
| Rhinovirus infection experiments | 14 September, 2023 |
| Samples sent for RNA sequencing | October, 2023 |
| 6 month progress report | 30 October 2023 |
| Analysis of RNAseq data | November, 2023 |
| Validation of any important pathways identified in RNAseq data | December, 2023 |
| Submit manuscript | January, 2024 |
| NHMRC grant submission | Q2 2024 |
| Final report | 31 March 2024 |

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Samuel Montgomery

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