

Dear Dr. Dara,

I hope this email finds you well. Once again we would like to express our sincere gratitude for selecting Georgia to participate in WHO sponsored "Solidarity" trial. Let me assure you that we will do our best to be your worthy partner in this study.

The study already obtained clearance from both national ethical committee as well as ethical committees from each participating clinical sites (4 sites in Tbilisi and 2 sites in regions). Necessary training on data entry and randomization was conducted and the study sites are ready to start enrollment of patients. However, we would like to draw your attention to a very important issue, namely:

As you are well aware the results of studies published in recent days showed an increased risk of adverse effects of chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine, including cardiac arrhythmias in patients with COVID-19. Accordingly, on 25 May WHO made decision to temporarily remove hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) from "Solidarity" study treatment arms.

In line with WHO recommendation we removed the use of hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) from our national COVID-19 treatment protocol until WHO makes the final decision. Please be informed that as a standard of care we were using hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) for COVID-19 patients with moderate, severe and critical conditions and no serious side effects have been reported so far.

After removing hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) from our national COVID-19 treatment protocol at present COVID-19 patients in Georgia **are left without any antiviral medications**. Therefore **provision of other antivirals: Remdesivir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir or Lopinavir/Ritonavir plus Interferon  $\beta$ 1a within the "Solidarity" trial is a matter of urgency for us.**

We would highly appreciate if you could consider abovementioned serious circumstance and **facilitate a timely provision of Remdesivir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir and/or Lopinavir/Ritonavir plus Interferon  $\beta$ 1 in frame of "Solidarity" trial to us as soon as possible.**

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration and we look forward to your response.

Best regards,

Tengiz Tsertsvadze