One Committee to Review Them All: A Single, Multi-Disciplinary COVID-19 Research Committee

Jocelyn Migliacci, MA, Sara Hanley, MSW, and Ann Rodavitch, MA
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Background

On 1/20/2020 when the first case of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was confirmed in Washington, its major impact was unknown. MSK's Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) was activated on 2/5, with our first COVID-19 case identified in early March. By 3/17, our Protocol Activation and Human Research Protection Program was fully remote and on 3/23, , MSK leadership requested the creation of the COVID-19 Research Committee.

Goal

The goal was to create a COVID-19 Committee as a **"one-stop" committee**, providing comprehensive review of clinical research related to COVID-19, including scientific review mandated by the Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) guidelines, prior to IRB review.

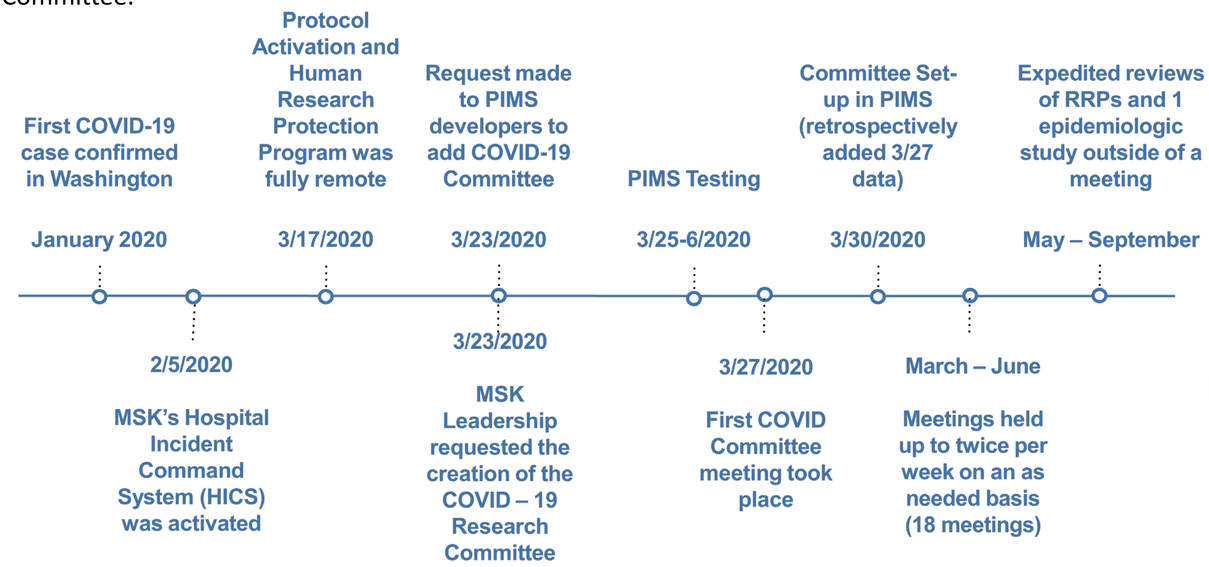
Protocol Submitted → COVID-19 Research Committee Review → IRB Review

Role of the Committee

- To prioritize and expedite all clinical research related to COVID-19 in support of the institutional effort to rapidly activate therapeutic and other COVID-19 related research.
- To monitor the COVID-19 research portfolio to prevent overlap of efforts.
- To list all studies on the Clinical Research Portal for transparency.
- To bring together faculty from multiple disciplines, disease management groups and departments, including Physicians, Statisticians, Nurses, Pharmacists, Legal, IRB Leadership, etc.

Creation of the COVID-19 Committee

The figure below illustrates the quick timeline of events leading up to and after the creation of the COVID-19 Committee.



MSK's Protocol Information Management System (PIMS) was leveraged to efficiently manage, and track COVID-19 research. The COVID-19 Committee was created within **7 days**. Typically, it would take several months to roll out this type of large enhancement.

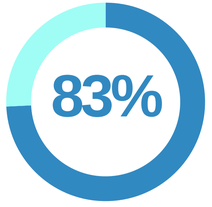
- Of the 8 therapeutic protocols that opened to accrual, 5 protocols have enrolled **146 participants** (in total)
- The first patient on each of the 5 studies was enrolled within ≤ **1 day** of each study opening to accrual.

Metrics (updated as of June 2021)

COVID-19 Prospective Research Protocols reviewed by the Committee

COVID-19 Retrospective Research Protocols (RRP) reviewed by the Committee

% of COVID-19 New Prospective Protocols submitted from end of March – June that Open to Accrual



% of Medicine Prospective Protocols submitted from end of March to June that Open to Accrual

COVID-19 Biospecimen Research Protocols (BRP) reviewed by the Committee

Impressive decrease in Time to Activation (TTA) and Time to IRB Approval (TTIA) for the protocols reviewed by the COVID – 19 Committee

COMMITTEE	Median TTA	Median TTIA
COVID-19 COMMITTEE	44 days	27 days
MEDICIINE COMMITTEE	194 days	119 days

Next Steps

- **Our unit is exploring how to utilize multidisciplinary committees to reduce the time to activation for all research protocols.**
- **One option we are exploring is to group protocols by disease and create a group of committees by Disease Management Team.**