

Press release

Lausanne, April 9th 2020

Switzerland is participating in the international “Solidarity” study conducted by WHO

Supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (NSF) and in collaboration with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), CHUV is coordinating Switzerland’s participation in the “Solidarity” study. Launched in March under the auspices of WHO, this study aims to test experimental treatments against COVID-19. In Switzerland, 16 hospital centres are involved in this clinical trial.

The WHO’s clinical trial called “Solidarity” aims to test antiviral drugs in a controlled manner – such as remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine and ritonavir/lopinavir (associated or not with interferon beta), that are currently used to control COVID-19. This international study was designed to quickly produce reliable data on the efficacy of these treatments.

Like many other countries such as France, Spain, Norway, Canada, Thailand, and South Africa, Switzerland is participating in this clinical trial funded by the SNF at CHF 1.6 million. It is conducted in 16 hospital centres: the university hospitals in Lausanne, Geneva, Berne and Basel, the hospital networks in Valais and Neuchâtel, the Riviera-Chablais hospital, the Jura hospital, and the cantonal hospitals in Fribourg, Solothurn, Aarau, Thurgau and Baden (AG).

In partnership with FOPH, CHUV was chosen as the coordinating centre for the study. In practice, the clinical trial in Switzerland is expected to extend over 3 months, a period that will partly depend on the evolution of the epidemic. The study may include up to 1,000 hospitalised adult patients who have not yet received treatment against COVID-19.

Dr. Oriol Manuel, who has been appointed principal investigator, is a deputy physician, and private lecturer at the CHUV’s Infectious Diseases Service and Transplantation Centre. Dr. Manuel is a member of the Scientific Committee and Chair of the infectious diseases working group of the Swiss Transplant Cohort Study (STCS). The implementation of the study will be coordinated by the CHUV’s Clinical Trial Unit (CTU).

The description of the study can be found on the [WHO website](#).