Discussion: Innovations in Rare Disease Clinical Programs

Forrest Williamson, Ph.D. Research Scientist 14 September 2018 2018 ASA Biopharmaceutical Section Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop



FDA Perspective on Clinical Trial Design for Rare Diseases



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American Statistical Association Biopharm Workshop Sept, 2018

Lucas Kempf, M.D. Associate Director Rare Diseases Program (acting) Office of New Drugs Center for Drug Evaluation and Research/FDA

- Rare diseases are not so rare (10%) •
- Hallmarks of rare diseases
- Rare Disease Program Responsibilities •
- Use missing data to its fullest \bullet
- Reduce variability with efficient trial execution
- Randomize to promote enrollment ullet
 - Avoid placebo
 - More subjects allocated to experimental arm (2:1 or greater)
 - Allow rescue treatments
- Room for Innovation •
 - Adaptive Designs & Interim Analyses
 - Platforms

Combining Clinical Progression Modeling with Innovative Trial Design in Rare Disease Trials

Case Studies in Designing Clinical Trials in Rare Disease



Melanie Quintana, PhD melanie@berryconsultants.com **Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop**

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- Common approaches to reduce heterogeneity are not feasible
 - Large sample sizes to overcome heterogeneity
 - Subgroup identification
- Solutions should involve more efficient use of available information data
 - Incorporation of multiple sources of information
 - **Natural History Studies** •
 - Augmented Designs
 - **Design innovations**
 - Adaptations •
 - More powerful methods •
- Simulation is a key tool to understand operating characteristics when applying innovative designs and leveraging multiple sources of information

Making the Most of What You Know

- Bayesian Borrowing
 - Offers a structure for incorporating existing information in to the analysis
- Master Protocols
 - Borrow within a platform, reduce heterogeneity
- Natural History Studies
 - Begin with the end in mind
- Patient Advocacy Groups
 - Physicians, relatives are the experts

