

conect4children

## c4c Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on Child Psychiatry

16-17 April 2020  
Brussels, Belgium

Conect4children is glad to inform that the first c4c Multi-Stakeholder Meeting (MSM) will take place on 16-17 April 2020 in Brussels and it will focus on Child Psychiatry.

**Multi-Stakeholder Meetings** have been conceived with the aim to **facilitate dialogue and provide an opportunity for constructive interactions between relevant stakeholders** (patients/patient representatives, clinicians, academics, pharmaceutical companies and regulators) **on topics requiring open discussion on development of medicines in the best interests of children and adolescents**. The goal of this meeting is to share information, in a pre-competitive setting, to facilitate the developments of innovative medicines and ultimately their introduction into the standard-of-care of children and adolescents with psychiatric disorders.

### Background information:

In child psychiatry, patients are often referred for evaluation and treatment of problems such as irritability and aggression. These conditions are often the focus of treatment and are present in several child psychiatry disorders, but they manifest differently in children as compared to adults as a result of growth and development. Because adult psychopharmacology and regulatory science focus on the development of drugs to treat diseases, these common conditions of childhood disorders are neglected as a focus for the development of therapies. As a result, child psychiatrists are either left with limited options for treating such conditions, or they must prescribe drugs off label in an effort to respond to patients' conditions. Either situation is undesirable.

A number of neurotransmitter systems have been implicated in the regulation of irritability, including dopaminergic, serotonergic, noradrenergic, glutamatergic and gaba-ergic receptors and pathways. Sponsors developing novel agents targeting these systems or other, novel neurotransmitter systems, are encouraged to participate.

### Proposal:

Using irritability as an example, the child psychiatry Multi-stakeholder meeting will explore the regulatory science that might support developing a drug for the treatment of a condition that occurs across multiple psychiatric diagnoses and is a unique focus of treatment for child mental health providers.

This will be done systematically by:

- (1) Describing** the problem – including differences between the pediatric and adult clinical settings that are a result of growth and development,
- (2) Reviewing** neurobiology and other science that supports a common pathway by which medications might alter the symptom regardless of the disorder involved,

**(3) Discussing** methods for systematically and reliably measuring the symptom (including real-time, patient-centered digital measures of outcome) and possible biomarkers,

**(4) Exploring** the design of trials that might support an indication based on decreasing the symptom regardless of the disorder that is present.

In the Forum the epidemiology, biology, standard therapy, therapeutic needs and future therapeutic plans on child psychiatry will be discussed. This will be followed by presentations of non-clinical and clinical information on medicinal products being developed, by pharmaceutical companies.

#### **Outputs:**

The result of this program will be a potential regulatory pathway for the development of a drug for the treatment of a symptom, with irritability as the example, across child psychiatry disorders.

Areas for further research and discussion will also be identified: considering the extensive use of digital devices by children and adolescents, real-time, patient-centered digital measures of outcome will be a secondary topic to be developed.

A white paper will be developed based on these outputs and published.

#### **How to participate:**

The meeting will be on invitation only. Interested participants can apply by filling the Expression of Interest form available [HERE](#). **Deadline** to submit Expression of Interest: **3 March 2020**.

Invited participants will be contacted in due time.

#### **Who can participate:**

Patients/patient representatives, clinicians, academics, pharmaceutical companies and regulators interested in child psychiatry.

#### **Conditions of participation:**

Registration to the meeting is free of charge for all invited participants.