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**Progress Review Form for Postgraduate Researchers GRS3**

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| **Part** | **By Who** | | **When** | |
| **Part A** | **PGR** | | **Two weeks before Supervisory meeting** | |
| **Part B** | **PGR** | | **Two weeks before Supervisory meeting** | |
| **Part C** | **PGR - Taught** | | **Two weeks before Supervisory meeting** | |
| **Part D** | **Supervisor** | | **Before supervisory meeting** | |
| **Part E** | **Supervisors and PGR** | | **During supervisory meeting** | |
| **Part F** | **Supervisor** | | **After supervisory meeting** | |
| **Part G** | **Progress review panel** | | **After APR** | |
| **Part H** | **PGR** | | **After APR** | |
| **Part A: To be completed by the Postgraduate Researcher(PGR)** | | | | |
| **Name: Amit Patel** | | | | **ID: 2227725** |
| **Lead Supervisor: Professor Lucinda Billingham**  **Co-supervisor: Dr Kristian Brock (Honorary Senior Research Fellow)** | | | | |
| **This form to be returned to: PGR Administrator** | | | | **By date: End July 2022** |
| **Part B: To be completed by the PGR (and given to the Lead supervisor two weeks before the Supervisory Review meeting with the PGR)** | | | | |
| **Degree for which registered: PhD Cancer + Genomics** | | | | |
| **Mode of study: PT** | | **Split location/Distance learning (\*)** | | |
| **Start date for this degree: 01 June 2020** | | | | |
| **End of maximum period of registration: 01 September 2025** | | | | |
| **Thesis title: Developments to established dose-finding methodologies for applications in trials with complex and innovative designs.** | | | | |
| **Date of Supervisory meeting: 26-May-2022** | | **Date of last progress review: 12-Aug-2021** | | |
| **(1)Please report below the work you have completed since last Progress Review OR, if this is your initial Progress Review, the work you have completed since you began your current research programme.**  Since my last review, I have worked on turning my first chapter into a paper. My first chapter is about the implementation of a novel methodology into a clinical trial. The PhD chapter talks about the details of the design, its application as well as a comparison to other designs. The papers focuses on detailing the design and its implementation. The paper is currently drafted and needs to be reviewed by the relevant individuals. We hope to submit in the coming months.  Developments were made to the second chapter, which is about a modification to a seamless phase I/II trial design. We modified the Wages and Tait design to add a component that would allow for randomisation to a control arm. Initially simulations were run for a number of scenarios and parameterisations of the design. Following discussions with my supervisors, it was thought that scenarios/parameterisations that are more appropriate would better reflect the benefits of this design. Work was done to redo all the simulation work.  During this time preliminary drafts of the introduction for a third chapter are also underway. The draft introduces the idea of dose-transition pathways a visualisation tool to show the possible outcomes of patients in a dose-finding trial. | | | | |
| **(2)Please give details of research training you have undertaken since the last Progress Review, OR, if this is your initial Progress Review, since you began your current research programme.**  No training has been undertaken specific to my PhD. However, training has been covered as part of my job. | | | | |
| **(3)Please list the research training you have yet to undertake.**  At this moment, no training is planned. | | | | |
| **(4)Is there is a financial cost to this future training** (e.g. registration fees for a conference)**?**  ✓  **Yes No**  **If YES, please confirm that you have identified funds to cover these costs or have agreed a plan with your Supervisory team to apply in a timely manner for the necessary funds.** | | | | |
| **(5)Please give an outline of your planned work for the next semester.**  For the next semester, I will be finalising the third chapter of my thesis. I will need to draft the remaining sections of the introduction. The chapter revolves around the complexities of adding a time-to-event component to DTPs. We will talk about the problem and illustrate it with some examples. We will then present some solutions, which may be possible to implement. The code to do this and the examples that will be used still need to be developed. This will all need to be typed up into the thesis as well.  Further developments to the second chapter will also be worked on. This will include comparing our modification to the Wages and Tait methodology to phase II designs. | | | | |
| **(6)Please give a timetable for your work between now and the end of your maximum period of registration** (i.e. deadline for submission of your thesis)**, or attach an existing plan.**  1-6 months: Develop a finalised draft of the third chapter. Extend the second chapter to make comparisons with phase II designs.  6-12 months: Work on ideas and concepts for fourth and fifth chapters and begin drafting those.  12-18 months: Develop all chapter into a finalised draft. Work on an introduction and conclusion.  18-24 months: Once reviewed by supervisors address any comments and finalise the thesis for submission. | | | | |
| **(7)If applicable, please add your comments about the progress you have made since this form was last completed and how it compares with your predictions then. Please include details of any problems encountered and action taken to mitigate these.**  Compared to the predictions made in the last report progress has been somewhat slow. I would have hoped to have a draft of the third chapter completed by now. Progress was slowed down as additional work was required in the second chapter where simulations were redone. Ultimately, this helped improve the chapter and made it make more sense. As a part-time student I have to balance working on this PhD with my work commitments and during this last year I have had limited time to work on my thesis.  Going forward I will share my work/drafts, more frequently with my supervisors so I can use their comments to more direct my work. I hope that my workload at my job will be more manageable going forward so I can commit more time to my PhD. | | | | |
| **(8)Have you considered and discussed with your supervisor relevant ethical issues connected to your research, in particular whether ethical approval is required?**  This has been briefly discussed with supervisors. Since the nature of the work is based on the development of statistical methodology, we do not envisage any ethical issues connected to this research. | | | | |
| **(9)Have you updated your DNA** (GRS1A) **in light of activity undertaken since the last progress review?**  No specific activities have been undertaken for my PhD, this has instead been covered by my job where we discuss developmental needs. | | | | |
| **(10)Please consider the impact of your research and how this impact is demonstrated to both specialist and non-specialist audiences** (e.g. publications, conference presentations, public engagement and outreach activities)**.**  We have drafted a paper that is close to submission relating to our first chapter on the implementation of a novel trial design. We believe this is the first trial that utilises such a design and as such, it may be beneficial to those who wish to use a similar methodology. We are also planning on submitting an abstract to the ICTMC conference which will also be related to this chapter and paper. | | | | |
| **(11)Do you know how to contact a mentor?**  ✓  **Yes No**  **If NO, please visit the** [**canvas page**](https://canvas.bham.ac.uk/courses/18749/pages/mentors) **for details.** | | | | |
| **12) Have you seen your 2nd supervisor twice in the last 12 months?**  Yes  **If NO, please give reason(s) as to why?** | | | | |
| **Part C: Only applicable to postgraduate researchers completing taught elements.** | | | | |
| **(12)Please list all the modules you have attended this academic session. Please include the mark achieved where this is known.**  Not applicable | | | | |
| **(13)Total number of credits attempted this academic session:**  Not applicable | | | | |
| **(14)Number of credits remaining in order to fulfil the taught element of the programme:**  Not applicable | | | | |
| **(15)Modules and credits to be attempted next academic session:**  Not applicable | | | | |
| **Signed: Amit Patel** | | **Date: 23/05/2022** | | |
| **Part D: To be completed by the LEAD supervisor before the Supervisory Review meeting with the PGR.** | | | | |
| **(16)Please comment on the accuracy of the postgraduate researcher’s assessment of his/her progress, in your opinion.**  Amit has provided an accurate account of his progress which continues to be excellent. Within this second year as a part-time student, despite being busier with his full-time job, he has still managed to progress his research, substantially expand his thesis and complete a paper for publication. His writing continues to be an excellent quality and has required minimal revisions from supervisors. Despite Amit not progressing as fast he had hoped during this last year, I believe that he will complete his PhD in the minimum time. As supervisors we need to provide more timely reviews of Amit’s work back to him to ensure that progress continues without unnecessary delay. | | | | |
| **(17)Please comment on the postgraduate researcher’s progress and achievements in the taught elements of the programmes.**  *N.B. Regulations state that “Where the postgraduate researcher is registered for research training or other taught modules as part of his or her programme of study, the postgraduate researcher must attain a satisfactory standard (achieve credit) in each module before being recommended for the award of the degree”*  Not applicable. | | | | |
| **(18)It is the supervisor’s responsibility to ensure that the PGR applies for ethical approval for their project. Ethical review should be sought by the end of year 1 for full time PGRs (pro-rata for part time PGRs).**  **Has ethical approval been granted for this project?**  **Yes No Not sure**  **If no, please give reasons for this and indicate when the ethical review will be submitted.**  We are not sure whether we have applied for ethical approval for this project so we will check. We do not believe that there will be any issues in this being granted. | | | | |
| **(19) It is mandatory for all PGRs who commenced their study from the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year to complete a Data Management Plan within 12 months of starting their studies.**  **(N.B. It is advised that all PGRs should complete a Data Management Plan).**  **(See:** [**https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/research/rdm/Data-management-plans.aspx**](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/research/rdm/Data-management-plans.aspx)**)**  **Has the PGR completed a Data Management Plan?**  X  **Yes No**  **If no, please give reasons for this and indicate when the DMP will be completed.**  We do not believe that a DMP is relevant for this PhD research project because the student is not generating any data. The project is reviewing and investigating statistical methodology. However, because it appears that a DMP is mandatory, the student will complete a DMP as part of this review to clearly outline how the DMP does not directly apply to this project. | | | | |
| **(20)Please rate the postgraduate researcher’s progress since the last Progress Review, OR, if this is their initial Progress Review, since they began their current research programme:**  X  **Excellent Satisfactory Requires improvement Giving cause for concern**  **If “Giving cause for concern” state what steps the postgraduate researcher should now take to ensure a satisfactory outcome.** | | | | |
| **(21)Please state whether you feel the postgraduate researcher has completed a satisfactory level of research training and whether there are any gaps still to be filled. This should include an ability to demonstrate the impact of their research to a specialist and non-specialist audience.**  Before starting his PhD, Amit had experience of working as researcher and he is currently working as a Biostatistician in the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit alongside his PhD studies. His PhD research project is related to his work. He receives some training in research methods and clinical trials as part of his job. Amit would benefit from having more experience in presenting his research at seminars and conferences and he has recently submitted an abstract to present his research at the International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference (ICTMC) in October 2022. Attending this conference will also provide some additional training that will be beneficial. | | | | |
| **(22)Please give your estimate of when the thesis is likely to be submitted. When completing this section please take account of the end of the maximum period of registration and deadline for submission of the thesis.** N.B. A submission after the end of the maximum period of registration would require an approved extension.  Amit is an extremely fast and efficient worker. I estimate that Amit will be ready to submit his thesis within 3-4 years of registration i.e. at the latest June 2024, so well within the maximum registration period for a part-time student. | | | | |
| **Part E: To be completed by the LEAD Supervisor at the Supervisory Review meeting with the PGR** | | | | |
| **(23)Issues discussed at the Supervisory Review meeting:**  At the Progress Review Meeting on May 26th 2022, the supervisors discussed the excellent progress that Amit has made during the last year. Supervisors noted that Amit had been frustrated by the workload in his job being so demanding that it had limited the time available to work on his PhD and this had impacted on the progress that he had hoped for. Supervisors acknowledged this but were satisfied that progress had still been excellent. Supervisors have some control over Amit’s workload and agreed that they hoped to remedy the situation in the near future.  The supervisors discussed training needs and concluded that presenting his research at a conference would be beneficial but otherwise there were no obvious areas that needed to be addressed. Amit has submitted an abstract to ICTMC in October 2022 and if successful then this will be a valuable training opportunity. | | | | |
| **(24)List of actions agreed at the Supervisory Review meeting, with an indication of who is to take them and a timescale.** (This should include a plan of action to ensure a submission within the maximum period of registration)**.**  Actions to be taken before Progress Review meeting so that they can be reported back there   * Amit, in liaison with lead supervisor, to check that an ethical application for the project has been granted - before end July 2022 * Amit, in liaison with lead supervisor, to draft a DMP for the project - before end of July 2022 * Amit to find out the name of his mentor – before end of July 2022 * Amit to submit first chapter of his thesis through Turnitin – before end of July 2022   **(25) Formative Plagiarism Process**  **Has the PGR submitted a document (e.g.: 1st year report) through Turnitin?**  X  **Yes No**  **Have the results of the Turnitin report been reviewed & discussed with the PGR?**  **Yes No**  **Where there any issues or areas of concern raised?**  **Yes No**  **If YES, please indicate what feedback was given to the PGR.**  *NB: Supervisors can contact the School Plagiarism Officer(s) for advice if there are areas of concern.* | | | | |
| **Part F:** Recommendation to be completed by the **LEAD Supervisor** **after the Supervisory Review meeting** in line with 3.6 of the University’s Code of Practice on Supervision and Monitoring Progress of Research Postgraduate researchers. | | | | |
| **(26)Please indicate:**  X  **Continue as Normally Registered - Progress is satisfactory** and the postgraduate researcher may continue with their studies as a normally registered postgraduate researcher, paying tuition fees.    **~~Transfer to Thesis Awaited - Progress is satisfactory~~** ~~and the postgraduate researcher no longer requires full use of University facilities, and having completed the minimum period of study, has completed the primary area of research and may~~ **~~proceed to thesis awaited status~~**~~, paying the continuation fee. This will take effect from the beginning of the next academic year.~~  **~~Progress is unsatisfactory/requires improvement.~~** ~~A work plan of supportive or corrective action must be agreed with the PGR and a date for further review of progress set. Where the initial progress review is at the end of the academic year, the postgraduate researcher is permitted to proceed into the next year but confirmation of their continued registration must be confirmed once the second progress review had been completed. If progress were to remain unsatisfactory, the postgraduate researcher may be required to withdraw (see Regulation 7.4.9).~~  **~~Transfer to a master’s programme from a doctoral programme~~** ~~(postgraduate researcher would have the right of appeal) (see Regulation 7.4.8 (e)).~~    **~~Transfer to a doctoral programme from a master’s programme~~** ~~(see Regulation (see Regulation 7.4.8(b)).~~    **~~Withdraw.~~** ~~This recommendation would have to be taken in accordance with the relevant University regulation. The postgraduate researcher would have the right of appeal (see Regulation 7.4.9 and Code of Practice for Reasonable Diligence).~~  **Date: 16-June-2022** | | | | |
| **Signatures (NB: both primary and second supervisor signatures required)**  **Cindy Sig**  **Lead supervisor:**  **Co-supervisor:** Kristian Brock (not available to sign) | | | | |
| **Part G: To be completed by the Progress Review Panel** | | | | |
| **(27) Comments, if any:**  Amit is progressing well with his PhD studies. He has completed one chapter which is ready for publication and a second chapter is almost complete, He has a clear and sensible plan to complete the remaining chapters within his period of registration and has the strong support of his supervisors. We discussed whether he needs a fourth results chapter and agreed that this can be revisited once the third chapter is written.  The only concern we have at this point is the amount of time Amit is able to dedicate to his PhD studies. Amit is a part time student working full-time in the trials unit and the urgent need for analysis of COVID-related trials has taken him away from his thesis work. Prof Billingham indicated that Amit’s workload will hopefully decrease slightly in the next few months, which will hopefully allow him more time for his studies. We will review the situation again at the next progress meeting. Amit should also consider that the expected volume of results required for a PhD thesis has been adjusted downwards to account for COVID-related interruptions. Students are encouraged to include a COVID mitigation statement in the thesis if necessary and the examiners are required to consider it when assessing the thesis. | | | | |
| **(28) I agree with/ wish to vary the recommendation made by the Supervisor in Section 5 as follows:**  We agree with the recommendation. | | | | |
| **Date:** 10 August 2022 | | **Signature(s): A picture containing text  Description automatically generated** | | |
| **Part H: To be signed by the postgraduate researcher** | | | | |
| **I confirm that I have read the comments of my supervisor and the Head of School (or nominee).**  **Date:11-08-2022**  **Signature:** | | | | |

**It is the Postgraduate Researcher’s responsibility to:**

1. obtain all signatures on the form
2. provide a copy of the completed form to the Institute’s postgraduate administrator