

06 April 2021

Dr Richard John Lessells (12434)

Prof Tulio Paiva N Andrade De Oliveira (163019)

Dear Dr Lessells and Prof De Oliveira,

Protocol reference number: BREC/00001510/2020

Project title: Spatial and genomic monitoring of COVID-19 cases in South Africa

Degree: Non-Degree

We wish to advise you that your application for amendments received on dated 23 March 2021 listed below for the above study has been **noted and approved** by a subcommittee of the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee.


The specific objectives of this work are noted as follows:

1. Conduct regional genomic surveillance through sequencing of samples from 10 countries
2. Determine the association of new SARS-CoV-2 mutations with clinical outcomes in Southern Africa region
3. Determine the effect of new SARS-CoV-2 mutations on the performance of diagnostics that are widely used in Africa
4. Determine the effect of new SARS-CoV-2 mutations on vaccines that are used in Africa

NOTE TO PI: The PIs from the other participating African countries should be listed as co-investigators on the study since they have been responsible for the acquisition of the samples and their details submitted to the EC.

The committee will be notified of the above approval at its next meeting to be held on 11 May 2021.

Yours sincerely



Ms A Marimuthu
(for) Prof D Wassenaar
Chair: Biomedical Research Ethics
Committee