



12th June 2018

RE: Ethical Review of DrOTS project in Nepal

Dear Members of the Institutional Review Board at Stony Brook University,

I am happy to express my full support as a cultural consultant for the study led by Dr. Peter Small: DrOTS: Drone Observed Therapy in Nepal.

I have been involved in the project development and can confirm that the study does not conflict with the cultural sensitivities, taboos, beliefs or practices of any Nepali ethnic group. The project has a strong element of consultation with community stakeholders and participants and project activities will be implemented via the network of female community health volunteers who are local community members sensitized to local issues and potential sensitivities regarding health and equity.

The local implementing partner, Birat-Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT) is a local NGO with 50 years of experience in serving the people of Nepal, with a specific focus on tuberculosis, and is currently implementing active case finding projects with a research component for tuberculosis funded by EU Horizon2020 and STOP TB partnership TB REACH programme. BNMT brings this country specific expertise to the project. The project will also be approved by the Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) prior to implementation.

BNMT Nepal envisions a new Nepal where all Nepalese are aware of their basic rights and are able to live healthy and productive lives, in a safe environment without having to worry about food, income or security regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability or HIV status. BNMT aims to ensure equitable access to quality health care and an enabling

environment for socially and economically disadvantaged people. Community engagement, consultation and partnership is at the core of all BNMT activities.

I personally have over 15 years experience working on tuberculosis in Asia and I am based full-time in Kathmandu with the Birat-Nepal Medical Trust. I will continue to provide guidance to the study team through the duration of the study, with respect to cultural and political nuances of working in Nepal. BNMT will facilitate access to its extensive network of healthcare workers, government officials, medical experts and community leaders, and lead the implementing field team throughout the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information or clarification,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Caws'.

Dr Maxine Caws

Maxine.caws@lstm.ac.uk

IMPACT TB Principal Investigator (www.impacttbproject.org)

Senior Tuberculosis Researcher

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

UK