



## Update from the Trial Team

Hello and Happy Easter from the MS-STAT2 trial team. In this newsletter, we'd like to share updates on the trial's progress. Of the 964 people initially recruited, 104 have now completed their time in the study, finishing as planned at the 3-year follow-up time. A further 157 people have joined longer follow-up — this is an additional period (up to three extra trial visits), which is being offered to eligible participants at the majority of trial sites.

Professor Chataway, MS-STAT2's Chief Investigator, likens the process of determining whether a new treatment can work for patients as similar to climbing a mountain. Having reached the summit (upon completing recruitment) we are now well on our way back to basecamp, on track to report trial findings at the end of 2024. No small achievement given this is the largest ever academic trial in the world in progressive MS!



## MS-STAT2 and COVID-19

Recent months have been full of good news from research studies announcing new effective antiviral treatments for COVID-19. Many of these can be taken safely alongside your MS-STAT2 medication, but we want you to be aware of two new drugs which shouldn't be taken at the same time as the MS-STAT2 tablets:

**Paxlovid** (also called Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir) and **Veklury** (also called Remdesivir) should not be taken with the MS-STAT2 tablets.

- If you become unwell with COVID-19, let the doctors know you may be taking statins.
- If they need to use Paxlovid or Veklury to treat you, please stop taking the MS-STAT2 medication straight away.
- You should then restart your MS-STAT2 medication 14 days after your last dose of Paxlovid/Veklury.

Please keep a note of any changes to your medication in your tablets diary, and let your MS-STAT2 team know at your next trial visit. Also, please get in touch with your local study team if you need any more information relating to COVID-19 treatments.





## Staying actively involved in the Trial

We're very grateful to all of you who are offering to be a part of the trial extension, and of course to everyone who's still involved in their original 3 year follow-up time (see our Feb-22 newsletter- more details on trial extension).

A small proportion of our participants are not currently taking the MS-STAT2 study medication, or haven't been in touch with their trial team for a while. Please get back in touch if you'd like to— we miss you!

### Breaks in Trial Medication

Whilst the vast majority of participants have no problems with the trial medication, occasionally some people may need to temporarily take a break (for example, to take certain other medications). While a very small number of participants may need to permanently stop MS-STAT2 medication, many others will be able to restart after a period off.



**If you think this may apply to you, please speak to your study team.** Having more people taking the tablets increases our chance of finding a treatment effect from simvastatin, but of course you should only restart them once your study team have confirmed it is safe to do so.

### Keeping in Touch



If you've missed a few trial visits, and aren't currently in touch with your local study team, **please do consider getting back in touch with your trial team to let them know how you are doing.** You are very welcome to fully re-join the trial at any point, even if you have not been consistently taking the trial medication.

Finally, a **big thank you** to everyone who's taking part in the trial.

This research wouldn't be possible without each of you.

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