



# SNIP-AFRICA: Severe neonatal infection adaptive platform trials in Africa

## Platform Development Group Charter

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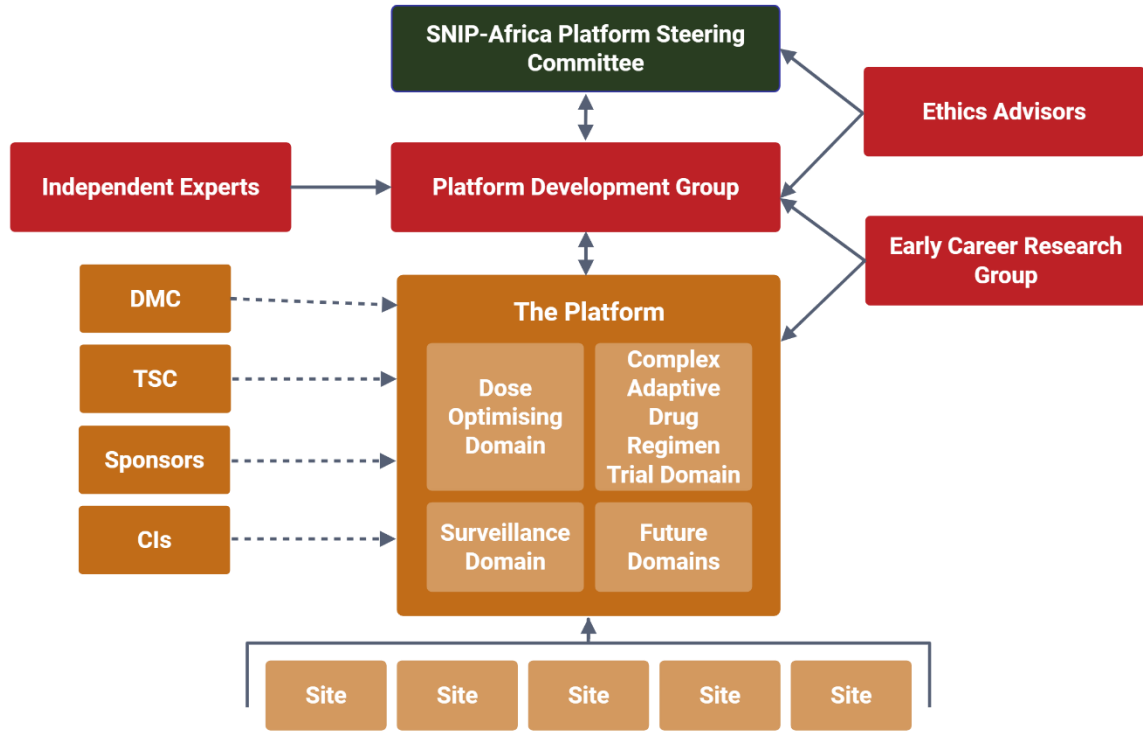
1. Introduction	
Name of the platform	SNIP-AFRICA - Severe neonatal infection adaptive platform trials in Africa.
Objectives of the platform	The overall goal of SNIP-AFRICA is to develop and sustain a scalable research infrastructure for the conduct of large scale, fit-for-purpose trials in childhood infections in the context of high levels of antimicrobial resistance in many African settings. The initial focus for SNIP-AFRICA will be neonatal sepsis with open domains investigating the epidemiology, treatment approaches and outcomes of neonatal sepsis, identifying optimized dosing regimens for antibiotics of interest and ranking context-relevant empiric antibiotic regimens for neonatal sepsis in terms of effectiveness and safety.
Outline of scope of the Charter	The purpose of this document is to describe the membership, terms of reference, roles, responsibilities, authority, decision-making and relationships of the Platform Development Group for the SNIP-AFRICA platform, including the timing, frequency and format of meetings and relationships with other committees.
Facilitation	A member of SNIP-AFRICA Platform Development Group will be nominated as a Facilitator. The Facilitator will be responsible for the organisation of meetings and should be copied into all relevant communications involving the PDG and platform's domains.
2. Roles and responsibilities	
Statement of aims of the PDG	To act as the overarching body developing a strategy for

	sustainment and development of the platform responding to evolving research priorities.
What is the role of the PDG (terms of reference)?	The PDG will play a critical role in executing the platform's overall research vision, goals and priorities and ensure alignment with public health priorities and other relevant initiatives in Africa and globally. One key responsibility will be to discuss emerging and urgent research gaps, considering the response from related actions, to identify critical modifications, extensions or other adaptations to the platform infrastructure and activities.
Specific responsibilities of PDG	<p>The specific roles of the PDG are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss and prioritise research gaps</li> <li>• Evaluate and recommend changes to the master protocol and other critical documents and processes</li> <li>• Recommend and advise on additions of new studies</li> <li>• Evaluate, recommend, advise on adaptations to on-going studies</li> <li>• Evaluate, recommend and advise on integration of different platform elements and activities</li> <li>• Nominate members for the Domain-Specific Steering Committees (DSSC) /and an Independent Data Monitoring Committees (IDMC) (where required) for new studies</li> <li>• Facilitate alignment with other relevant research projects and actions</li> <li>• Identify and advise on funding opportunities to sustain the platform and enable above adaptations and additions</li> </ul>
Remit and expected recommendations	<p>The PDG will be able to provide input on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficiency – collaboration between domains and platform activities to reduce workload, share resources and to strengthen relationships between partners/contributors</li> <li>• Alignment – managing alignment between domains and activities to ensure data collected is synergetic to the overall objectives of the platform</li> <li>• New research questions – to encourage discussion and implementation of potential new domains and activities on the platform</li> <li>• Platform development – to evaluate the future of the platform. To assess new and future advancements in the field, changes in regulations and innovative study designs and methodologies for implementation.</li> <li>• Advisory – the PDG can provide expert advice and suggestions on issues raised by CI, Sponsors and other researchers active on the platform</li> <li>• Training – identifying training needs throughout the life-cycle of the platform activities and provide opportunities to research teams for advancement.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Composition and membership</b>	
Membership and size of the PDG	The PDG will consist of independent experts and stakeholders, and representatives of SNIP-AFRICA partner institutions. At least 50% of PDG membership should be independent of the original SNIP-AFRICA consortium (2023-2028: 101103201).
The Co-Chairs, how they are	Members of the PDG shall nominate co-chairs (one independent,

<p>chosen and the Co-Chairs' role</p>	<p>one SNIP-AFRICA representative) who will chair the meetings together or alone. Nominated co-chairs should have the support of a majority of the PDG members, and this should be documented in the minutes of the PDG meeting during which nominations were agreed. The nominated co-chairs need to be endorsed by the Platform Leadership Committee (termed the Platform Steering Committee during the SNIP-Africa project grant 2023-2028) (see Annexe 1). The term of a chairperson is 4 years, renomination is possible.</p> <p>The Chairpersons should have previous experience of leadership within large clinical research projects or research consortia, preferably including paediatric research conducted in Africa or comparable settings.</p> <p>The Chairpersons should facilitate, summarise discussions and review minute meetings. They will support drafting and revision of a letter addressed to the PLC, summarising recommendations resulting from discussions held in PDG meetings.</p>
<p>The facilitator</p>	<p>The facilitator will be responsible for arranging meetings of the PDG, preparing the agenda (alongside the Co-chairs), and producing and circulating minutes and action points. The Facilitator will be the central point for all PDG communications between the PDG and other bodies, will be copied into all correspondence between PDG members and will be kept aware of platform issues as they arise.</p> <p>The initial facilitator will be a member of the SNIP-AFRICA team at City St George's, University of London with a term lasting until the end of the currently funded SNIP-AFRICA project (2028). Renomination is possible.</p>
<p>Members</p>	<p>PDG members will not be asked to formally sign a contract but should formally register their agreement to join the group by confirming (1) that they agree to be a member of the SNIP-AFRICA PDG and (2) that they agree with the contents of this Charter. Any potential competing interests should be declared at the same time. Members should complete and return the form in Annexe 2.</p>
<p>Observers</p>	<p>Industry representatives or members of regulatory bodies may join the PDG as observers. Additional observers may be in attendance through (parts of) the PDG meetings in order to provide specific relevant expertise. Any observers (attendees who are not members) will sign a confidentiality agreement on the first occasion they attend a meeting (Annexe 3).</p>
<p><b>4. Organisation of Meetings</b></p>	
<p>Expected frequency of PDG meetings</p>	<p>Twice a year with additional ad hoc meetings as needed.</p>
<p>Meeting mode</p>	<p>Meetings will take place by teleconference in most instances, but face-to-face if logistically possible, given the international nature of the platform.</p>

Who organises PDG meetings?	The PDG Facilitator with input from the Co-Chairs will be responsible for scheduling meetings and setting and circulating agendas. Meetings will be convened with at least one month written notice in advance. Agenda items may be addressed by any member of the PDG no later than 15 days prior to the meeting day, and the finalised agenda will be provided 5 working days in advance of the meeting
<b>5. Relationships</b>	
Relationships with Chief Investigators, other project committees, Sponsors, Funder(s) and regulatory bodies.	<p>The SNIP-AFRICA platform governance is detailed in Annexe 1. The responsibilities of each committee/group are detailed in the respective Charters.</p> <p>Platform Leadership Committee: The PLC is the ultimate decision-making body and supervises activities carried out by platform partners. The PDG advises the PLC on matters as outlined in section 2, issuing specific recommendations whenever appropriate.</p> <p>Domain-specific Steering Committee(s)/ Independent Data Monitoring Committee(s): All communications with study/domain specific governance committees will involve the PDG, the PLC as well as the CIs and Sponsors of the specific study activity in question. PDG communications to the committees may occur to keep them informed about proposals for study-specific amendments, adaptations and modifications.</p>
To whom will the PDG report their recommendations/ decisions, and in what form?	The Platform Development Group will report their recommendations to the PLC as well as CIs and Sponsors as appropriate. All recommendations and decisions must be finalised in written form.
<b>6. Decision making</b>	
How will decisions or recommendations be reached within the PDG?	Every effort should be made to achieve consensus. The role of the Chair is to summarise discussions and encourage consensus; therefore, it is usually best for the Chair to give their own opinion last. It is important that the implications (e.g. ethical, statistical, practical, financial) for any activities on the platform to be considered before any decision is made.

# Annexe 1: SNIP-AFRICA Governance Structure



## Annexe 2: Agreement and competing interests form for independent advisors

### SNIP-AFRICA Platform Development Group: Agreement to join the Platform Development Group as an independent advisor and disclosure of potential competing interests

Please complete the following document and return to the PDG Facilitator.

(please initial box to agree)

	I have read and understood the PDG Charter version 1.0 dated 28-Aug-2025
	I agree to join the Platform Development Group as an independent member
	I agree to treat all sensitive data and discussions confidentially

The avoidance of any perception that independent members of a PDG may be biased in some fashion is important for the credibility of the decisions made by the PDG and for the integrity of the platform.

Potential competing interests should be disclosed via the Facilitator. In many cases simple disclosure up front should be sufficient. Otherwise, the (potential) independent PDG member should remove the conflict or stop participating in the PDG. **Table 1** lists potential competing interests.

	<b>No</b> , I have no potential competing interests to declare
	<b>Yes</b> , I have potential competing interests to declare (please detail below)

Please provide details of any potential competing interests:


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Table 1: Potential competing interests for independent members

- Stock ownership in any commercial companies involved
- Stock transaction in any commercial company involved (if previously holding stock)
- Consulting arrangements with the Sponsor(s)/Funder(s)
- Ongoing advisory role to a company providing drugs to a trial within the platform
- Frequent speaking engagements on behalf of the companies providing drugs to a trial within the platform
- Career tied up in a product or technique assessed by a trial within the platform
- Hands-on participation in a trial within the platform
- Involvement in the running of a trial within the platform
- Emotional involvement in a trial within the platform
- Intellectual conflict e.g. strong prior belief in a platform's trial's experimental arm
- Involvement in regulatory issues relevant procedures in a trial within the platform
- Investment (financial or intellectual) or career tied up in competing products
- Involvement in the writing up of the main trial results in the form of authorship

### Annexe 3: Agreement and competing interests form for observers

#### SNIP-AFRICA Platform Development Group: Agreement to join the Platform Development Group as an observer and disclosure of potential competing interests

Please complete the following document and return to the PDG Facilitator.

(please initial box to agree)

	I have read and understood the PDG Charter version 1.0 dated 28-Aug-2025
	I agree to join the Platform Development Group as an observer
	I agree to treat all sensitive data and discussions confidentially

The avoidance of any perception that independent members of a PDG may be biased in some fashion is important for the credibility of the decisions made by the PDG and for the integrity of the platform.

Potential competing interests should be disclosed via the Facilitator. In many cases simple disclosure up front should be sufficient. Otherwise, the (potential) PDG observer should remove the conflict or stop participating in the PDG. **Table 1** lists potential competing interests.

	<b>No</b> , I have no potential competing interests to declare
	<b>Yes</b> , I have potential competing interests to declare (please detail below)

Please provide details of any potential competing interests:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Table 1: Potential competing interests for independent members

- Stock ownership in any commercial companies involved
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- Involvement in regulatory issues relevant procedures in a trial within the platform
- Investment (financial or intellectual) or career tied up in competing products
- Involvement in the writing up of the main trial results in the form of authorship