

SA making progress to start with Covid-19 clinical trial – News24 – 29 April 2020

South Africa has been ready to start with Covid-19 clinical trials for nearly two weeks now and Professor Helen Rees from WITS University, who is coordinating the international study trials in South Africa, says they are making good progress with getting the necessary approvals to get the project started.

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the international clinical trial named, Solidarity, to speed up the testing of different drugs to find evidence-based treatments for Covid-19. South Africa is part of nine other countries Argentina, Bahrain, Canada, France, Iran, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and Thailand that have confirmed to be part of this clinical trial with 5 countries having already started Professor Rees tells DRUM. Forty-five other countries are also contributing to the trial to generate evidence faster on drugs which do work.

“Some European countries have already started enrolling participants into the trial, Brazil, Iran, Norway, France and Spain are already doing it” however South Africa has not yet started, she continues to say that they are still facing some red tape with regards to the necessary permits they need to carry out the project. Professor Rees is coordinating the clinical trial set roll out in 14 hospitals countrywide along with colleague Jeremy Nel.