

In the Arise Surveillance study an independent external Data Safety Monitoring Board has been established to continuously monitor and protect patient safety throughout the clinical study with an emphasis on progress, safety data and critical efficacy endpoints of the clinical study.

The following experts have agreed to join the ARISE DSMB:

Prof. Siegfried Kropf

Prof. Kropf, University of Magdeburg (DE), is head of the Institute for Biometry and Medical Informatics and avails of extensive experience in multi-centre trials in congenital and acquired heart disease with special interest in parametrical and non- parametrical statistical analysis of clinical studies. He also has been involved in Data Safety Monitoring Boards for numerous clinical studies funded by the German Science Foundation and for the German Competence Network for Congenital Heart Defects.

Prof. John Dark

Prof. Dark, Newcastle University (UK), is Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Newcastle University and Freeman Hospital. He is a specialist for transplantation and member of numerous international working groups dealing with donation, transplantation and ethics. He is a past-President of the European Society for Organ Transplantation and of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, and serves on the Council of the British Transplantation Society.

Prof. Rune Haaverstad

Prof. Haaverstad, Haukeland University of Bergen, Norway is head of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and specialist for aortic surgery. He has been involved in numerous heart valve studies dealing with aortic valve replacement and repair and published extensively on aortic valve replacement.