

Coronavirus Standards Working Group Steering Committee Meeting Summary from 22 May 2020

Next meeting 5 June 2020 0800 PDT

Hi all — no meeting this short week, we'll meet next as a SC on 5 June at 0800PDT. We're planning for Robyn Temple-Smolkin from AMP to present on a member survey next Friday. More rowing, less steering. In the interim we're continuing to have small meetings on the proposed interlab study (more below). If you're interested in being part of a small meeting, please send a note to [Alexander Hoekstra](#) and [Marc Salit](#) and we'll arrange it.

Our meeting last Friday, 22 May was recorded. The video recording is available, with a scrolling transcript, at this link: [Coronavirus Standards Working Group Steering Committee - Zoom](#)

Scott Jackson from NIST announced a virtual workshop with an open forum discussion: [A NIST-Hosted Webinar on Measuring SARS-CoV-2 in Wastewater and Fecal Material: A Call for Standards | NIST](#) to be held on 16 June 2020 1300 EDT.

Highlights

Clare Morris from NIBSC presented a roadmap for developing the WHO molecular standard for SARS-CoV-2. NIBSC have a template for developing WHO standards which can be calibration materials and "meter sticks" for complex biologically-derived products. Shared reference samples that are the WHO calibration standards are key to harmonizing biological and medical measurement results.

Harmonization brings critical capabilities to clinical medicine, and Clare enumerated several that are relevant to SARS-CoV-2 testing, including consistent measures of diagnostic sensitivity and consistency in clinical decision-making.

Development of the WHO standards typically takes 3 years, including a collaborative study, but will be done on an expedited basis ("Fast-Track Approach) for SARS-CoV2.

Notable questions for Clare included the question of whether the consensus value assignment results would be reported in copy number or International Unit (IU); the results will be reported in IU.

Clare's slides are in our Slack workspace and on the [JIMB website](#).

Marc Salit reported out from the 18 May meeting on the proposal for our WG to conduct a collaborative study. The 18 May meeting and follow-up discussions have refined the proposal to a 2-phase effort, the first phase developed an authoritative panel of reference samples, and the 2nd phase a wide evaluation of EUA tests. As noted at the top of this summary, we are continuing to have conversations pursuant to considerations for a study and refining our plans.