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Coronavirus Standards Working Group Meeting Summary: Harmonization Study Update & What about Vaccine Assays?

Dear Colleagues –

Thanks for meeting on Friday 13 November – we reviewed and considered the study principles, design, general protocols, progress on sample and lab recruitment, and analysis and reporting plans. The [slides are attached here](#), and were based in part on annotation of our [cartoon diagram](#). The study is more thoroughly described in the [revised writeup](#) that's been sent out with the participation invites. [The meeting recording is linked here](#).

David Catoe of JIMB is managing the logistics and coordinated developing an explicit experimental protocol.

We reserved the last part of the meeting to raise the question of whether we can usefully address technical or standards issues associated with assays being established, approved, and deployed to measure vaccine efficacy. We discussed the pull-quote from an NEJM paper as distributed in our meeting invite, and Tom White discussed the implications of the recent promising vaccine clinical trial results on the need for assays that read out a surrogate for immunity. Tom suggested that we reach out to the WHO Vaccine Assay WG to find out what needs we might usefully address. I will invite leaders of that WG to present to us in an upcoming CSWG meeting.

Best regards to all!

Marc

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