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Coronavirus Standards Working Group Meeting Summary

Dear Colleagues –

Thanks to all for our meeting this morning Friday 19 March – this is a brief summary to get the materials and links in everyone's hands quickly. Thanks to Jack Collins of the Frederick National Lab (an NCI FFRDC) for starting a conversation about standards needs for genomic surveillance. Jack's slides [are here](#). My slides that include a proposal for work to do [are here](#).

The architecture of what I'm proposing is pictured here -- I suggest we (1) establish a library of viral RNA genomes (~16) from the BEI resources, (2) characterize those and (3) make available all data. We should (4) provide access to a family of informatics analysis pipelines, with guidance on use and performance, and (5) develop and deploy a benchmarking tool that would permit field users to evaluate the performance of their lab.

What can we do to support community to understand & report sequencing data quality?

What can we do to be confident in genomic surveillance?

Shared, widely available genome reference samples	Authoritative Characterization	Open Data	Reference Pipeline	Benchmarking Tool
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a library of reference samples representing strains of interest• use strain library from BEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrate results from multiple sequencing platforms• distinguish between variation and sequencing artifacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make available raw data from characterization• multiple technologies• data support methods development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make available full analysis for characterization• offer prototype analysis pipeline for field use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enable field use of reference samples to evaluate performance of...• wet lab• dry lab

Deliver technology-agnostic standards for Wet Lab -> Dry Lab -> Public Health

There are details of implementation, but a clear message from the meeting today was to focus on delivering a 'good enough' solution rapidly. "Six months is too long!"

Rapid response is a reasonable and urgent design principle; using existing samples and analysis tools is imperative. We can use currently available reference strains from BEI and other already- or near-term available materials. There are several analysis pipelines/tools already available. The "invention" required will be a benchmarking tool. Integration of the "dry-lab" elements into a cloud-

hosted platform derived from precisionFDA would be straightforward.

Our [meeting recording is here](#), and our [website](#) will be updated to include the slides and this meeting summary.

Your thoughts are very welcome on this critical topic -- more to come!

Cheers and stay safe!

Marc

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