

24 April 2020 CSWG SC Meeting Summary

Next Meeting: 1 May 2020 0800PDT

Thanks as always for everyone's engagement at Friday's Steering Committee meeting. Please feel free to share this summary with those who might be interested, and please continue to reach out to relevant partners and stakeholders inside and outside of your organizations.

I want to thank Megan Palmer and Sarah Wait Zaranek for their help in summarizing the discussion at our meeting. [Their notes](#) contributed strongly to this summary, and to the actions of the drafting teams working on our manuscript.

A highlight for the WG was the just-completed Standards Inventory, which will be put up on the web before the next SC meeting (props to Alexandra Whale, Gerwyn Jones, Megan Cleveland, Jim Huggett, and Pete Vallone).

Steering Committee Meeting

This meeting was focused on the manuscript we're developing to describe the technical and operational needs of a coordinated global project to ensure the availability of standards (documentary and control materials) and standardization efforts in support of robust and reliable coronavirus testing.

We discussed the outline, paper structure, and spent most of our time on the figures (thanks to Tim Mercer!), and covered the tables and the Minimum Information Standards.

Attached to this summary are the following, as a PDF:

1. slides from the discussion
2. draft Table I. Annotating the Molecular Testing Measurement Process
3. initial SARS-CoV2 Controls and Standards Inventory

Key Followups

The teams developing the manuscript sections on molecular and serological testing will meet during the week of 27 April to further develop and refine the figures, text, and tables (developing a Table 2 to annotate the serological process).

We will have an update at our upcoming Friday 1 May SC meeting, along with emerging and situational content.

Highlights

It was important to discuss Figure 1 — “Clinical Course of Biomarkers” in the full group to refine the concepts, language, and presentation of the figure. This figure is key for our presentation of the roles and interpretation of different testing modes.

- we retitled the figure, to something like: “**Emergence of diagnostic biomarkers through course of infection**” to accommodate the (suspected large fraction of) asymptomatic cases that do not present as a “clinical course”

The robust discussion of Figure 2 — “Molecular Testing Measurement Process” gave notes to the drafting team, which met later in the day on 24 April and dove deeply into the revision and annotations.

- Discussion of Figure 3 — “Serological Testing Measurement Process” identified the good consistencies with Figure 1. Notable points:
 - We discussed that ill-characterized/uncharacterized epitope sensing was a really strong contrast with the well-defined nucleic acid targeting (this will be discussed in the manuscript).
 - Jan Liphardt’s “under the hood” investigation of several lateral flow serological test devices uncovered that many different devices contain test strips from the same manufacturer. This will be emphasized in the Minimum Information about a Coronavirus Assay standard, which will include recommended disclosure about the source of critical test components.

Table 1 was presented as an early draft, and will be fleshed out over the next week as the figures are finalized. There was consensus that the intended annotation was appropriate to annotate each process element for its effect, needed standards/standardization, and gaps.

The Minimum Information about A Standard/Control inventory table was presented by Pete Vallone, and was accepted by the group as meeting the needs we set out to meet; the inventory will be shared online, and maintained.

- The relevant documentary standards will be presented and discussed in the manuscript and annotated on the figures and tables.