



We, a multi-national group focused on fighting current and future pandemics, leveraging a data-driven systems approach, would greatly value your participation in a virtual working meeting scheduled for **18 February 2021 at 10:30-12:00 EST US/16:30-18:00 CET**. We are seeking participation in a rapid effort to standardize key data documenting vaccine administration.

There is great urgency, requiring immediate action. Nations, jurisdictions within nations, and tech companies have initiated work on vaccine documentation applications and associated standards. Unless quickly replaced with a single consensus standard, these disparate efforts will inevitably lead to a global Tower of Babel that will not only aggravate trans-border spread of disease, but also greatly complicate travel, education, and commerce.

The virtual working meeting will be hosted by a group of experts from Spain, Italy, and the United States. This collaboration was initially convened in April 2020 and is hosted by the Learning Health Community, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of individuals and populations. Our recent publication: [Addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and future public health challenges through global collaboration and a data-driven systems approach \(wiley.com\)](#) describes an approach to optimizing the value of the vast amount of Covid-19 data, which continues to be amassed, to inform decisions that are crucial to managing the pandemic.

The **18 February 2021** meeting will be narrowly scoped to initiate a process to converge quickly upon a parsimonious, precisely described vaccine documentation standard to be rapidly published, sending a clarion message that a healthier world requires such a standard. We propose to simultaneously advance this standard, published as provisional, through an appropriately broad and robust consensus-based process enabling it to be quickly and universally adopted.

We sincerely hope that you will join this important event. We look forward to your **reply by 11 February** to Josh@JoshCRubin.com. If you are unable to participate, please consider designating an alternate.

With thanks and best wishes,

Luigi Bertinato, MD, PhD (ITALY) Head of the Office of the Scientific Secretariat to the President of the Italian National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health; Formerly WHO in Africa; DG Santè of the European Commission

Charles P. Friedman, PhD (USA) Chair of the Department of Learning Health Sciences, Josiah Macy Jr. Professor of Medical Education at the University of Michigan Medical School; Professor of Information and Public Health; Founder, Learning Health Community; Former Deputy Director and Chief Scientific Officer, U.S. Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT

Esther Gil Zorzo (SPAIN) President of Educatec Foundation; Diabetes Coordinator in HM Hospitals; Former President of the FEAD (National Federation for Diabetes Educators); Member of the Executive Committee of the FEND (Federation European Nurses Diabetes)

Rebecca Kush, PhD (USA) President, Catalysis; Chief Scientific Officer for Elligo Health Research; Founder and President Emeritus of the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC); Director on the Board, Learning Health Community; Former HL7 Board Member and Member of U.S. Health IT Standards Committee

Pablo Rivero (SPAIN) Senior Health and Public Sector Advisor for Everis / NTT Data; Member of the Digital Health Roster of Experts, World Health Organization; Former Director General for the Agency for Quality and Innovation of the National Health System of Spain

Francisco Ros, PhD (SPAIN) President, First-Tech Engineering; Former Secretary of State for Telecommunications and the Information Society in the government of Spain; former Qualcomm Board Member

Joshua Rubin, JD (USA) Program Officer for Learning Health System Initiatives at the Department of Learning Health Sciences, University of Michigan Medical School; CEO of the Learning Health Community

Borja Sanchez Garcia (SPAIN) Minister of Science, Innovation and University of the Asturias Principality government in Spain; Senior Researcher at the Dairy Research Institute; Scientific Founder of Microviable Therapeutics SL

Paolo Stocco (ITALY) Executive Board Member, EuroHealthNet, a not-for-profit partnership of organizations, agencies and statutory bodies working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health, and reducing inequalities

Douglas Van Houweling, PhD (USA) Professor Emeritus of Information, School of Information; Professor Emeritus in Service of Learning Health Sciences, University of Michigan Medical School