

Virginia COVID-19 Meeting 8/7/2020

Updates on Registry

- We have all necessary pieces for the IRB submission. We received the letters of support from Vibrent and GMU.
- Dr. Rebecca Sutter joined the group today. She represents a group of clinics in northern Virginia that serve underserved communities.
- Josh provided a brief overview of the study.
 - The goal of the study is to build a COVID-19-focused registry. We will be collecting data from participants on exposures, signs and symptoms, quality of life, social determinants of health, impacts to income or livelihood. We will be using the Vibrent platform. It will be a longitudinal study with 3 follow-up periods.
- Our estimated roll-out is in September/Early October.
- Josh and PJ clarified that, though we use the word “citizens” often, this is not limited to US citizens. It would be open to the immigrant communities as well. We can use terms like “residents” or “community members.” Immigrant communities have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 so it will be important to have them represented in this work.
- PJ indicated that he has seen situations with other Vibrent studies where large groups of people just download the app and join the study, even if perhaps they are not from the population of interest. He noted that Vibrent has the capacity to limit access to participants from the US by restricting IP addresses. We agreed that we *do* wish to limit this to US participants.
- Josh Edwards and Josh Schilling have worked on a project plan, which they shared with the group. The Vibrent team is currently reviewing all questionnaires and consent in order to digitize everything. The group will want to reach consensus on all of the content prior to going live. We will have a demo so that everyone can test out the technology fully.
- We’re looking at a phased roll-out plan, where we test the app first within our group, then start with a small pilot group and then push it out more broadly.
- We’ll want to keep marketing scripts as consistent as possible across institutions.
- Josh Edwards and others will work on assigning dates and point people to the different components.
- The group is also scheduling a meeting where more specifics on marketing plans will be discussed.
- Dr. Dodani and Amy have reached out to their respective institutions to explore small funding in order to support the possibility of incentives. We will continue with this before we make any IRB changes.
- Dr. Dodani has reached out to a physician from SQCN (Sentara Quality Care Network) but has not heard back yet. If we don’t hear back by next week, we will try reaching out to someone else.
 - Dr. Sill has a contact, Dr. Dixon, who is the associate chair of internal medicine. Josh Sill will reach out to him. Here our goal is ultimately to receive some outpatient COVID data. Josh Edwards will look into who our primary care contact is from past work.

R01 Discussion

- Dr. Dodani emphasized how there have been many more funded studies on COVID-19 recently (from the NIH Reporter) and concluded that if we are going for this R01, we need to decide and submit something quickly.
- We reviewed the comments we have received so far from Brian and discussed next steps.
- Josh Sill mentioned that he is a representative in the Medical Society of VA and there is currently a proposal focused on COVID-19 and health disparities going up in front of the state legislature. He will send around a copy of this proposal, as it may be helpful to consider state funding and assess whether our aims align with those of the state.

Action Items

- Josh Edwards will add the project plan and table of tasks to our google drive.
- Dr. Dodani will also reach out to the PR person from Sentara.
- Dr. Dodani and Amy will continue discussions with respective institutions for small funding opportunities.
- EVMS team will continue looking into opportunities to receive outpatient data from primary care contacts.
- Sarah will add the link to the RFA of interest to our current draft of the R01 aims page and will also add this to the google drive folder. The group will review over the weekend and will add any additional edits/comments since we have last visited the aims.
- We will then send a clean version of the aims to Jessica from the Conafay Group in order to get their feedback.
- Josh Sill will send a copy of the health disparities proposal to the VA state legislature for the group to review.