N3C Letter to Partners

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 global emergency raises many difficult care and healthcare management questions. Which drugs are the most viable candidates for a given patient? How can we efficiently and effectively assemble the right cohort for a trial? What social determinants impact course and outcome?

The National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) is a collaboration among the NCATS-supported Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program hubs, the National Center for Data to Health (CD2H), distributed clinical data networks (PCORnet, OHDSI, ACT/i2b2, TriNetX), and other partner organizations, with overall stewardship by NCATS. The N3C aims to improve the efficiency and accessibility of analyses with COVID-19 clinical data, expand our ability to analyze and understand COVID, and demonstrate a novel approach for collaborative pandemic data sharing. For more detailed information, please view the slide deck and AMIA webinar recorded 4.13.2020: Building a Nationwide COVID-19 Cohort Through Informatics: A new initiative being coordinated by CD2H & NCATS AMIA Presentation

Joining the Effort
N3C is providing this Partnership Packet to provide information and instructions needed to begin the Partnering process. Due to the urgency of this mission, it is critical to convene key members of your institution who can implement this effort at a swift pace. The first steps will be to identify the following N3C Site Team Members within your organization: 1) Champion Leader, 2) member of your Contracts and Legal group, 3) an IRB administrator who is familiar with central IRB activities and 4) CRO and/or Clinical Data Warehouse Director. Please relate this information by having a single member of your organizations fill out the site survey (PDF version attached; live survey here.)

The Data Transfer Agreements and Data Use Agreements will be executed with NIH. The Data Transfer Agreement (DTA) is a legal document signed between the institution and NCATS. This agreement covers the disclosure of a limited dataset from the contributing site to NCATS. Execution of this agreement is a prerequisite for transmitting data to NCATS for N3C. John Hopkins University (JHU) will serve as the central IRB for N3C.

Data Acquisition Process
Once IRB approval is in place, and the Data Transfer Agreements have been executed, N3C will provide each site with “White Glove” service to assist with the data exchange process. Sites will be provided with a 1) COVID Phenotype, scripts for the data models (PCORnet, OMOP, ACT/i2b2 or TriNet), 2) a process document for data exchange and 3) assistance with data quality checks.

Website: COVID.CD2H.org
For questions or comments, please contact the National Center for Data to Health (CD2H), the partner coordinating center for N3C, at data2health@gmail.com
Questions/Comments/Suggestions
Over the next several weeks, N3C will conduct webinars, and Question and Answer sessions to answer DTA/DUA, IRB, and technical questions. If you have any questions or would like to participate in this collaborative effort, please contact us (see Contacts document).

Even though this is a challenging time for our communities, this is an opportunity to achieve something together that will bring healing!