

DDI Alliance Executive Board Meeting

17 December 2019

Present: Bill Block, Cathy Fitch, Jared Lyle, Steve McEachern, Dana Mueller, Barry Radler, Joachim Wackerow

Update: Temporary Working Group to Propose a Restructuring of the Scientific Board

The DDI Alliance would like to improve the structure and organization of the Scientific Board, which is the scientific and technical body of the Alliance. At the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Scientific Board, a temporary working group was approved to propose a restructuring and to draft changes to the Alliance Bylaws. This work is to be completed in advance of the May 2020 annual meeting, when the finalized proposal will be discussed and voted on. Participation in the temporary working group will involve several conference calls and one in-person meeting. The temporary working group will be chaired by Ingo Barkow, current Vice Chair of the Scientific Board.

Jared emailed the DDI community two weeks ago seeking nominations for the temporary working group. Eight individuals have been nominated so far, with several nominees from Europe. The nomination deadline has been extended until Monday, December 23rd, to expand and diversify the nominees. The Executive Board will make the final selection of the temporary working group members.

Update: Membership Feedback

Since the last meeting, Jared notified the finalist survey research organization (Survey Research Operations (SRO), Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan) that the Alliance would like to modify their proposal to allow for a soft launch (5-10 interviews) of the DDI Alliance Membership interviews. SRO modified their original proposal accordingly and the Alliance is proceeding with the soft launch. SRO can still complete up to 50 interviews should the soft launch go well. The total cost of the soft launch and the additional production would be about the same as the original proposal (~\$33,000). The proposal does not include analysis and reporting; the Alliance will need to complete that work ourselves.

SRO currently is reviewing the instrument and the schedule. The membership feedback working group (Barry, Steve, and Ron Nakao) is creating a script to recruit and schedule interviews.

Board members discussed the need to prepare a group to analyze the feedback data, including to identify at least one representative from each of the main Alliance committees and working

groups. It was suggested to use a targeted approach in assembling the group rather than an open call for participation.

Updates: Letters of Support

In late November, the Alliance provided two letters of support for external funding proposals tied to DDI development. The Board discussed the value of contributing to proposals, including offering staffing contributions.

External Partnerships

Steve reviewed ongoing discussions with an external organization interested in contributing to the development of DDI 4 and other DDI work products. The external organization is interested in executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Alliance. They are also interested in joining the Alliance, and having the Alliance join their own organization.

The Executive Board discussed the benefits and drawbacks of entering into an MOU. Benefits include connections with a large network and increased visibility of the standard. Potential drawbacks of shared development discussed included intellectual property questions and loss of control. It was noted that reviewing a draft of the MOU will help clarify the risks and rewards. Discussion with the external organization is ongoing.

Work Products (DDI Core) discussion

The Board was planning to review the DDI work products during this meeting, including DDI 4 Core outcomes. However, it was decided to hold off discussion until the January 2020 meeting. Prior to the January meeting, Jared and Steve will contact Arofan Gregory, chair of the MRT Group, to request the latest documentation from DDI 4 Core. They will also contact Wendy Thomas, chair of the Technical Committee, to request the latest version of the DDI Roadmap the Technical Committee has drafted.