

Attendees: Adriansjah Azhari (AA) Apoorv Kumar (AP), Anand Kumar (AK), Dat Do (DD), Harshet Jain (HJ), Ladda Suwitruengrit (LS), Linsen Du (LD), Marcus Freire (MF), Martin Reers (MR), Raches Ella (RE), Ricardo Palacios Gomez (RPG), Sekar Thangaraj, Sunil Gairola (SG), Suresh Jadhav (SJ), Valeria Brizzio (VB), Yuri Vasilev (YV), Sonia Pagliusi (SP) and Sonia Villasenor (SV).

TC started at 12:00 CET and finished at 12.30 CET

- The meeting started at 12:00 with an epidemiological update by AP. Cases keep on increasing in the Americas at a high rate. There are no major statements on a second wave but in the southern region of Europe we are seeing infection's rate increase. SP mentioned Japan is now having thousand cases per day, which it looks like a second wave; Europe circulating virus is mostly in youth.
- SV presented the results of the call to the members for the sub-committees, with now around 9 or 10 participants per sub-committee. AK requested to remove his name from the QC sub-committee since there is another member from Indimmune. SP mentioned it is up to the champion and members of each sub-committee to decide how will they operate and communicate. For every Committee TC we should have a standing agenda with one representative of each sub-committee to update the COVID committee. This could be the second item on the agenda.
- RPG reported that COVAX/CEPI is setting up new working groups: one on safety monitoring and one on maternal immunization, and is requesting DCVMN to nominate a representative for these groups. SP mentioned that DCVMN has a pharmacovigilance WG of which Alexander Precioso (AXP) is chair, cf. <https://www.dcvmn.org/-expert-working-groups-> and suggested to send this query to the PV-WG. RPG agreed to work together to circulate this invitation and also to invite the PV-WG to join the COVID clinical/preclinical sub-committee, to enable connection/communication. He will send query to SV and copy AA. RPG asked if anyone on the call is working on maternal immunization, and as there was no response, he mentioned that Butantan is planning to have maternal immunization trials with the vaccine under development with Sinovac, and he volunteered to represent DCVMN in the Maternal immunization working group. There was no objection. SP will draft a nomination letter to CEPI and will ask for the approval from EC. RPG agreed to share all information with the Working Group.
- SG asked about the expectations from subgroups and what should we have in the agenda. Otherwise it will be difficult to coordinate on what is expected. It was agreed that each champion shall draft their one-page proposal on objectives, then circulate to the members of each subgroup for comments (through email or a TC) and report back on the next COVID Committee meeting. AP suggested the champions can consult the original TOR for this committee as the primary objective to evaluate vaccine candidates, select animal models, etc. The TOR will be uploaded on the webpage (cf. <https://www.dcvmn.org/COVID-19-Resources> for each subcommittee take on the tasks and select the respective objectives. SV will share the email addresses of the sub-groups with each champion.
- YV gave a short digest on partnerships. He highlighted that CEPI extended the call for proposals/grants for 28th September 2020, for the COVID vaccines and specifically invites DCVMs.
- AP gave short debrief on AVAREF joint review process, offered through a webinar where it was discussed the emergency joint review process for clinical trial application in the continent: If

planning to conduct clinical trials in a country in Africa, the manufacturer shall write a letter of intent to AVAREF, at least 2 weeks before submitting the dossier to the respective NRA. AVAREF communicates to the NRA of the country and invites them to collaborate. Then the applicant has a pre-submission meeting with AVAREF and THE NRA. Then evaluation of application and screening, AVAREF supports the NRA for the evaluation and expediting the Approval. All African countries are members of AVAREF. AA asked what happens in the case of some African countries, which do not have well qualified NRA? AP said that this is why the assistance of AVAREF to the NRA is very important, to help evaluate and expedite approval, by decreasing in timeline of evaluation.

- SP flagged out that next week on Wednesday 12 August there will be a briefing webinar by GAVI/UNICEF on the principles of the COVAX Facility, which could be of interest to the company developing vaccines and general membership. Individual member companies are attending but it is also open for other companies not DCVMN members. The link will be circulated soon.
- The next Covid Committee meeting might be by the end of the month.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50

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Notes taken by SV, edited by SP

Adriansjah Azhari
Chair of DCVMN COVID-19 Committee

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Nyon, 5 August 2020