

**Attendees:** Apoorv Kumar (AP), Dipankar Das (DkD), Dat Do (DD), Harshet Jain (HJ), Huong Ngo Thu (HN), Huong Nguyen Thuy (HT), Ladda Suwitruengrit (LS), Linsen Du (LD), Marcos Freire (MF), Raches Ella (RE), Sai Prasad (SDP), Samir Desai (SD), Sunil Gairola (SG), Valeria Brizzio (VB), Yuri Vasilev (YV), Sonia Pagliusi (SP) and Sonia Villasenor (SV).  
**Excused:** Adriansjah Azhari (AA) Martin Reers (MR), Ricardo Palacios Gomez (RPG), Suresh Jadhav (SJ)

TC started at 12.05 CET and finished at 12.50 CET

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- AP provided an epidemiological update: covid-19 infections keep on increasing in the Americas at a high rate. Infections in Asia have been also increasing at a high rate during the last month, as well as in South Africa. He concluded that some countries are showing a second infections wave, but still new infections, rather than a second infection of the same persons who already had Covid. There are a few cases documented, but not enough information as to determine the rate of reinfection of people; it might be related to the severity of the first infection. Epidemiologists are also expecting to see the effect of coinfections e.g. dengue or influenza on the Covid pandemic.
- YV presented a short digest: CEPI funding opportunity call is still open until September. He mentioned 2 papers. that will be distributed together with these minutes. YV also mentioned that the “Partnerships and Manufacturing sub-committee” drafted the proposed goals and will share with members of the group for comments and then discuss the details. YV added that there have been some scientific publications mentioning cases of Covid reinfection in HongKong, but it is too early to draw conclusions; we are waiting for published data.
- RE gave an update on the clinical trials sub-committee. There has been a debate on the adequacy of the animal models and large scale efficacy phase 3 studies whilst the pandemic has infections going on in most countries. The group will go deeper in clinical and pre-clinical evaluation.
- SG reported on the QC sub-committee working agenda, that covers 3 main topics: AC testing of vaccines, animal models for challenge studies and bioanalytics of vaccine-clinical evaluation of covid-19 vaccine (ELISA). There is a need for a reference lab with available materials for evaluation. The agenda is very broad and there are many technology platforms and each manufacturer has its own priorities, thus prioritizing is best, instead of trying to cover every specific aspect. He proposed to discuss 3 common aspects and see to which extent DCVMN members’ products are advancing in clinical trials and prioritize those products. RE requested SG to keep QC it as universal as possible to benefit everyone and try not to make it vaccine platform or product specific.
- SDP updated the group on the no-fault Compensation and Liability Protection in connection with COVID-19 Vaccines during the Pandemic. He mentioned a joint policy position from industry for an indemnification to protect a person or entity, in case there would be any harm done to this entity, knowingly or not, due to the accelerated pace of developing Covid vaccines. It was discussed within DCVMN and added not only for product liability issues but also for criminal liability issues. This was submitted to COVAX/GAVI for discussion. Regarding the ACT-accelerator, in terms of fundraising, between 10% and 20% of what is needed for all the goals (3 pillars) has been raised. There is concern in group that vaccines are more of a national security subject and national priority. Some countries are focusing on their own population giving large contracts to manufacturers. Other countries are suppliers to other countries with different strategies. All are accelerating the vaccine development trying to maintain quality control and compliance with regulations. Some countries have been aggressive in terms of their declarations, saying they have the vaccine ready to use. Some countries have not necessarily WHO’s multilateral approach. They are also working in trying to increase awareness to look at the pandemic as a global health issue leading to global economical issues.

- SDP asked SP whether the survey that Benoit Hayman has been preparing has been circulated, as he has started receiving requests for information from CEPI and other entities, he has only answered that we will not be able to share detailed information on manufacturers, only in an anonymous and combined manner. Specific requests will be forwarded to the secretariat.
- SP mentioned the survey has been circulated to the AC members for comments, and a few questions were added, like adjuvants capabilities, yeast strains; and the questions were divided into 4 categories (technologies, fermentation capacity, formulation capabilities, filling capacities). Benoit is updating the survey and will have a final check from someone who knows GMP. It will be finalized by tomorrow and circulated to the members, giving 2 weeks to answer. It will be highly appreciated if all members respond within this time frame. The results may be available by mid-September so that a report can be prepared and discussed with the AC. SDP requested that once the information is collect, to make it a publication, so that we can release it to members and other entities at the same time. If we don't publish it, it may never get acknowledged. SP estimated that it could be drafted for publication by October.
- SP mentioned that we received the information from RPG regarding a clinical Workshop organized by CEPI on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, but we didn't receive any specific invitation from CEPI with the link to join. She will contact RPG to request the link and circulate to all our members.
- The next Covid Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 CET.

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*Notes taken by SV, edited by SP*



Raches Ella  
Co-Chair of DCVMN COVID-19 Committee

Nyon, August 25, 2020