Participants: Adriansjah Azhari (AA), Fernando Lobos (FL), Lingjiang Yang (LY), Tiago Rocca (TR), Weidan Huang (WH), Sonia Pagliusi (SP), Laura Viviani (LV), Benoit Hayman (BH), Sonia Villaseñor (SV)
Excused: Patrick Tippoo (PT), Sai Prasad (SDP)
Meeting started at 12h05 and finished at 13h16.

1. Standing ECTC agenda approved: PT proposed the principle of having a standing agenda for every EC meeting to ensure covering not only urgent matters but ensure a broader view and discuss international organizations’ updates, and updates on the Working Groups activities. The principle of the standing agenda was approved by all EC members; TR suggested inviting at least one WG leader per meeting, to present advances. WH also requested having pre-reading summarized material available before the sessions, and, if needed, background documents, and have a 5 min presentation. ACTION: The draft standing agenda will be re-drafted to keep it as suggested today.

2. AGM: proposal and Budget approved: SV presented a spreadsheet comparing the services and features provided by the 6 different e-meeting platform suppliers evaluated over the last month. The recommended supplier, WTV was selected among the options given that it has proven experience in running large events for high profile global and other international organizations, providing confidence that the AGM will run smoothly and successfully. The quotation of 45,650 CHF, although being the highest of the ones presented, is within DCVMN budget. FL asked if the quotation could be negotiated, and SP and SV clarified that the price presented here is already a result of extended negotiations (initial quotation of July 17th was 53’977 CHF, for two days meeting, and the final offer is 45’650 CHF for three days meeting management). FL asked if the platform has the feature for the members to network. SP clarified that since the AGM is virtual, and will only 3 hours per day, we prefer the members to attend the conferences and not be distracted with many alternative activities. The services offer was approved by EC. ACTION: Secretariat to discuss the details with supplier and execute the contract.

3. Intl organizations: joint policy on no-fault compensation: Gavi/COVAX approved: In the absence of Mahima Datla and SDP, SP presented the document created by international organizations regarding no-fault compensation and liability for adverse events caused by COVID vaccines, if any. Since the approach used in the Ebola pandemic (liability insurance) was not feasible due to the magnitude of liability for all companies in the world involved in the manufacturing of Covid vaccines, Covax experts proposed a no-fault compensation policy for governments to adopt, and would cover for adverse events for any Covid vaccine that will come to the market and the governments will be responsible for compensating the people that get the adverse event, proven to be due to the vaccine and not to mismanagement or misconduct from manufacturers or supply chain. Mahima and SDP, DCVMN representatives at COVAX, discussed it with IFPMA experts, and recommended approval by EC as policy. At the moment this does not imply any costs. This joint statement will not be public; it will only be used by COVAX and COVAX facility for discussions with stakeholders. DCVMN will not get involved further than approving or joining this policy and is not our duty to talk to governments on this topic. FL commented that as many organizations have endorsed it, and there is no risk foreseen for DCVMN, it is a tool in case there is any liability discussions. The proposed no-fault compensation policy was approved by the EC members; there are no costs involved and no need to contact the local governments directly. This is being followed up and finalized by COVAX/CEPI.

4. Staff: internship contract/salary approved: LV presented the proposal of hiring 2 interns to support the 3Rs and regulatory Working Groups and specifically the activities related to NIIMBL work, the activities of the Regulatory WG and any general needs in DCVMN related to training activities. The proposal is within budget and normal frame of intern conditions in the region. TR acknowledged the
5. Contracts with Biolyo and Intravacc for approval: SP mentioned that yesterday DCVMN received the contract with NIIMBL for formally execute the award, only missing their counter signature. LV and BH were acknowledged for their work in preparing the proposal/budget. The grant is for 371 K USD, to cover for PSPT project expenses over 18 months. LV shared the offer from Biolyo to produce the coating antigen material for the ELISA for the PSPT studies. Biolyo has experience and expertise with B. Pertussis. LV mentioned that the amount of 71'310 Euros (page 7 on the contract) is much lower than a competitor’s offer, and within the budget and this is after negotiations. The contract was approved by the EC members present.

LV then presented the case of Intravacc, who is a DCVMN resource member experienced in pertussis vaccines. In the PSPT project INTRAVACC has 2 roles, first is a service they will provide for the characterization of coating antigen. Usually DCVMN resource members are not paid, thus the query for waiver to the rule and the approval to pay for the characterization of the coating material. The cost is already included in the budget submitted to NIIMBL. Intravacc is not benefit financially of the characterization of the project itself. The cost for the characterization if 44,000 USD. The exemption to pay Intravacc this one single time was understood and approved by the EC members. LY asked how will the product be distributed, or what is the policy for handling it. LV explained the PSPT time frame is of 18 months. All material related to it needs to be distributed within this time frame. We will hire a consultant to establish the policy to deal with the coating materials related to the project. The idea is to produce enough material to allow laboratories to continue performing the PSPT in the future if approved by the National Ctrl Labs. LY asked to ensure antigen is available for all members including those who are not part of the WG but are working with whole cell pertussis-based vaccine. SP confirmed it will be available to whoever wants to have it. The idea is, to donate the antigen to WHO to distribute it over the next 10 years. DCVMN is using the funds of the NIIMBL grant to cover for production, qualification, characterization and distribution of the material, and in the future it will be available, but companies may have to pay for the shipment. EC approved the Biolyo offer.

6. Memberships/partnerships/donors updates (for information): It was reported that Amson and Green Signal are in arrears. GS did not answer to any emails. Thus 39 members paid memberships 2020. Donations from corporate partners for over 200K USD have been collected so far. NIIMBL just sent contract to DCVMN. PATH also confirmed by email that they received internal approval for the contract and will be sending the contract to DCVMN, which is based on reimbursement. AA asked if NIIMBL will be invited to join the AC. SP answered yes, but first we wish to finalize the contract and then invite a representative of NIIMBL to join the DAC, to avoid any perception of undue inducement on the grant award.

7. AQL: Razi Institute asked to join AGM. SP told them to register as invited guest for free. She suggested the EC to allow them to join the public sessions (not the general assembly) this year because it is online and it doesn’t cost to DCVMN to have more people on line. In the past they have been supportive. They will. FL said he has no objections, but it needs to be checked with Legal if there are no implications. Other members had no objections. ACTION: Secretariat checked with legal, and L&S confirmed that as there is no financial transaction, this would be fine.

Nyon, 26 August 2020

Notes by Sonia Villasenor, edited by Sonia Pagliusi

Approved by

Fernando Lobos, DCVMN Treasurer