Summary of ICODA Scientific & Strategic Advisory Council Meeting – September 2021

Date: 14 September 2021

Chair: Agnes Binagwaho and Martin J Murphy

Attendees: Trudie Lang

Nicky Mulder

Frank Rockhold

Gail Stephens

Yu Wang

Andrew Morris (HDR UK)

Aziz Sheikh (DP2 lead)

1.	**Welcome & Introductions**
	AB thanked the ICODA team and the SSAC members for their continued input and support of the initiative
2.	**Session 1: Scaling & Sustainability**
	Andrew Morris (AM) informed the Council that since the last meeting, ICODA has launched 10 Grand Challenge ICODA Driver Projects (DPs), accredited over 100 researchers using ICODA's digital Gateway, engaged in the data sharing policy space, and published various articles as a result of the initiative.
	AM informed the SSAC that Trudie Lang (TL), Director of The Global Health Network, has joined HDR UK as Global Research Director.
	TL set out the vision for building on the ICODA initiative and creating HDR Global, and what it seeks to achieve. The main focus will be on building a new ecosystem for global health and data science that addresses priority global health challenges, and also addresses global inequity in who benefits from this research
3.	**Session 2: Ensuring Driver Project Impact**
	Grand Challenges ICODA Data Science pilot initiative: 10 research studies have been selected to join ICODA's cohort of Driver Projects and these were announced at the end of July. The studies cover a broad range of research areas related to COVID-19 and its

impact, and the research teams are drawn from 19 countries with wide geographical reach, predominantly in the Global South.

There was a demonstration of ICODA's Digital Workbench, highlighting the tools and services available to project teams.

Driver Project 2 - Preliminary Results: Aziz Sheikh provided a general overview and update on the International Perinatal Outcomes in the Pandemic (iPOP) study. This project, which has patient and partner engagement at its core, has included 159 collaborators and 41 countries, 21 of which are LMICs. The study aims to understand the impact of lockdowns on pre-term births and stillbirth rates.

4.	**Session 3: Stewardship**

HDR UK is working to gain data controllership status to streamline data access processes and provide single point access for researchers.

ICODA has committed to the 'Five Safes' Framework: safe projects, safe data, safe people, safe setting and safe outputs. The Output Review Process will ensure safe outputs by ensuring that there are no disclosure risks and validate the scientific integrity of results.

Driver Project 1 – Data Sharing Challenges: Nevine Zariffa highlighted the challenges have hindered the rapid collection of data for DP1 and emphasized the importance engaging all stakeholders in finding solutions.