Summary of ICODA Scientific & Strategic Advisory Council Meeting – April 2022

Date: 12 April 2022

Chair: Agnes Binagwaho and Martin J Murphy

Attendees: Trudie Lang
                Nicky Mulder
                Frank Rockhold
                Steve Kern
                Gail Stephens
                Andrew Morris (HDR UK)

1	**Welcome & Introductions**
	AB opened the fifth meeting of the SSAC, thanking the ICODA team and the SSAC members for their continued support of the initiative. She pointed out the importance of this meeting during which the SSAC is set to discuss the next phase of the ICODA initiative and the role of the SSAC in its execution.
2	**Session 1: Progress update on ICODA Driver Projects**
	AM briefly reiterated the mission and vision of ICODA and reminded the Council that the initiative is aimed at building a collaborative global alliance and a trustworthy data ecosystem, as well as enabling scale and longevity through a driver project delivery model.
	AM provided some brief updates on the progress of the ICODA driver projects that involve 135 researchers from 19 countries. The two original driver projects are in publication phase while the 10 that followed will be completed in July 2022. The 12 driver projects have produced original research, with 9 publications already in peer-reviewed journals including Nature Medicine, and 4 pre-prints.

Eight articles describing the approach and ambition of ICODA have also been published.

This session was followed by Q&A.

3	**Session 2: HDR Global: progress to date and future plans**

TL reminded the Council that HDR Global, building upon HDR UK's mission and expertise, seeks to enable trustworthy data access, and re-use data and analysis in regions, communities and disease areas where evidence to tackle threats to public health is lacking. HDR Global will build on The Global Health Network's decades long work with three regional partners – Fiocruz, Africa CDC and icddr,b. It will build a global federated partnership that prioritises open access, engagement with the community, linkage between research and public health data, and a "showing by doing" approach.

TL emphasized the goals of HDR Global:

- To enable and support research that tackles locally-set, priority health challenges by improving capture and analysis of all forms of health-relevant data

- To address inequity in where data is collected and who benefits from the evidence

- To connect expertise and share technology, standards, policies, and solutions that work between different projects, teams and networks in the Global South

TL presented the theory of change that elucidates HDR Global's five-year plan. The gaps identified include global inequity in health research, lack of locally-led research in LMICs, and low levels of data sharing and engagement with data science. The goal is to support health data science research built on good practice and strong networks, regularly conducted by researchers in LMIC settings, resulting in outputs that shape policy and practice.

Activities already initiated include:

- Developing data science capability and leadership: established Global Health Data Science digital hub, formed a working group, and are building a community of practice with over 600 members already signed up to the Hub

- Data infrastructure and governance: working with regional partners to scope needs and identify solutions

- Update of data science insights: space on Global Health Data Science Hub for sharing resources for community, public and patient engagement and involvement

This session was followed by Q&A.