

From: [Alliance for Digital Pathology](#)
Subject: Alliance Announcement: Two new projects addressing COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:12:46 PM
Attachments: [draftLetter_RemoteSignout.docx](#)

Dear Alliance,

First off, we apologize for the late follow-up after L.A. We are sure everyone is busy, challenged, and working on maneuvering COVID-19.

At this point the Alliance has 2 COVID-19 related projects that we would like to invite you to participate in introductory calls

WORLD-WIDE COVID-19 LUNG DATA REPOSITORY (ALLIANCE STANDARDS WORKGROUP)

Lead: Markus Herrmann (MGH), Amanda Lowe (Visiopharm), Matt Leavitt (LUMEA), Ian Cree (WHO), Brandon Gallas (FDA), Steve Hewitt (NIH)

A major challenge of COVID-19 is our current lack of understanding of the key pathobiological principles of the disease in the most severe cases. A central histopathological repository of these tragic cases from various countries does not yet exist, but would be essential in gaining an understanding of the disease and establishing diagnostic criteria. The CDC is already aligning the collection of biomaterials. The Alliance plans to establish an international virtual platform for hosting and sharing digital whole slide images of lung specimens of COVID-19 cases. This Alliance project is a collaboration between the pre-analytic, data standards and ground truth working groups. It aims to apply a standardized specimen preparation protocol and use an international ISO standard for communication of digital images and related information to ensure digital slides can be interpreted reliably and compared across institutions. As a proof of principle, the goal is to establish a standard data repository of initially n=10 digital images of post-mortem lung specimens together with relevant metadata and make these data sets available to pathologists and scientists around the world.

We are meeting **Tuesday, March 24 @ 2-3pm**

<https://partners.zoom.us/j/128972712>

Meeting ID: 128 972 712

Dial in: +1 646 876 9923 [US, New York]

CDC post-mortem guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-postmortem-specimens.html#SpecimenCollection>

ALLIANCE REMOTE SIGNOUT WORKGROUP

Lead: Joe Sirintrapun (MSKCC), Joe Lennerz (MGH), Matthew Hanna (MSKCC)

The group is working to clarify the regulatory framework currently prohibiting remote/digital signout. After the emergency declaration by President Trump (3/13/2020) several strategies have been identified to enable more telemedicine and telepathology solutions. The group aims to provide a repository of related information.

We are meeting **Monday, March 23 @ 3-4pm**

<https://partners.zoom.us/j/979541723>
Meeting ID: 979 541 723
Dial in: +1 646 876 9923 [US, New York]

*Draft letter attached

We look forward to seeing you on these calls and hope you can make it and contribute.

With kind regards and stay safe.

OBO The Alliance.