

## STRATOS Steering group conference call

### MINUTES (Note the action items for SG at end)

2015-07-14

**Start: 5pm (UK Summer time, GMT=UTC+1), 6pm (CEST=UTC+2)**

**Participants:** Michal Abrahamowicz, Willi Sauerbrei, Marianne Huebner, Doug Altman, James Carpenter, Harbajan Chadha-Boreham, Mitchell Gail, Els Goetghebeur, Saskia le Cessie, Joerg Rahnenfuehrer

**SG members not able to attend:** Raymond Carroll, Petra Macaskill, Stephen Evans, Ewout Steyerberg, Andrew Vickers

**Meeting called to order: 5pm (=UTC+1) and chaired by James Carpenter**

Agenda items listed in blue.

#### 1. Conferences

- a. [ISCB 2015 \(26 August in Utrecht, talks from TG1 \(Lee\), TG2 \(Perperoglou\), TG5 \(Evans\) and TG8 \(Therneau\)](#). The STRATOS group meeting 12:35-13:55 will be divided into two parts, the first part public, the second part for members only.
- b. [ISCB 2016](#). We have applied for a session. Decision to come in the next weeks.
- c. [IBC 2016. Invited session organized by James Carpenter; one week after Banff](#). The official application will be sent via email.
- d. [Banff 2016](#). In the near future attendance will be clarified. A separate email was sent regarding the process for invitations. There were 18 acceptances as of July 15, 2015. There are some issues with covering travel costs for some colleagues. The program will be finalized in August.
- e. [http://hec2016.eu/ 28Aug-2Sep 2016 in Munich. Three German societies plus IEA. Session with 120 minutes, 3 talks intended](http://hec2016.eu/). Ulrich Mansmann is the chairman of this meeting. He has approached Willi and we have decided to accept this invitation. Details will be discussed later. Invitations for a STRATOS session at other conferences were discussed.

#### 2. STRATOS Committees

- a. [Leadership of STRATOS: Chair, co-chair, secretary, steering group, TG chairs, members](#). Marianne Huebner was welcomed to the steering group. She will fulfill the role of a secretary of the initiative. Besides the chair, co-chair,

the secretary, one or two additional members would be welcome to join the leadership committee.

b. STRATOS membership

- i. **Committee for new memberships.** Applications for STRATOS membership are possible via the website. Several applications have been received. A committee for new memberships is needed to direct applicants to TGs as appropriate. The TG chairs can decide about the appropriateness for their group. Willi, James, and Harbajan agreed to serve on this committee. Others are welcome.
- ii. **TG chairs to decide whether somebody can join the topic group.**  
Discussed under i.
- iii. **Member Status ‘Applied researcher’ (including interested clinicians) who will review and test STRATOS level 2 guidelines and work towards level 1 ‘education’ guidelines.** A new membership category, Affiliate Members, would be useful, and the membership committee can be involved.

c. Contact persons to Professional Societies

- i. ISBC: Harbajan and Willi
- ii. IBC: James
- iii. International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology: Michal
- iv. Volunteers would be welcome for other professional societies

d. STRATOS papers

- i. **Committee to establish general rules for STRATOS presentations and publications.** Volunteers for this committee are needed.
- ii. **Review committee for STRATOS publications.** Doug shared the process of publications in the CONSORT group which involves review by several members within one month of receipt. It was discussed that SG members would receive manuscript from TGs for review and possible acceptance as a “STRATOS paper” before submission to a journal. The process will be discussed by the Committee mentioned in 2.d.i. which will need to be formed.
- iii. **What is a STRATOS paper?** A desire for open access and publications on the STRATOS website was discussed, including providing a concise

summary of the papers for the website. Further criteria will be determined by the Committee mentioned under 2.d.i.

- e. **Funding opportunities (Freiburg –DFG; EU-Horizon2020; funding for meetings).** Ideas are welcome for funding for STRATOS. Doug and Michal mentioned the difficulty of obtaining funding for translational research such as what STRATOS aims to provide. However it is very difficult to continue without funding. Willi will write a DFG grant for Freiburg. Willi has a DFG grant for methodological issues in high-dimensional data. This will be loosely connected to the new TG on high-dimensional data (see below).

### 3. STRATOS Updates and Discussions

- a. **Journals for level 2 papers: StatMed, SMMR, JClinEpi others; for level 1 papers?** A list of statistics journals for STRATOS papers would be useful. Level 1 STRATOS papers may be appropriate for discipline-specific journals. The new publication committee (see 2.d.i.) will make proposals.
- b. **Revisit possible joint review paper about current weaknesses in research. Includes examples that highlight problems from each topic group. Which Topic Groups currently work on a review paper?** As TGs prepare review papers, a joint review STRATOS paper about current weaknesses in research may be possible and discussed in Banff 2016.
- c. **Website. Updates, add short bios of SG members, add links for members. Tags such as statistics, missing data, and others, should be added to help to find the website in search engines.** The website will be updated to add new members. Short bios and website links for SG members was supported in the discussion of the conference call. Adding tags such as statistics, missing data, and others, may help to find the website in search engines. An email will be sent to request this information from SG members.
- d. **STRATOS Glossary. Some statistical terms are used inconsistently or do not have a clear meaning. Terms may be used differently across TGs.** The need for a STRATOS Glossary is two-fold. Internally, statistical terms need to be used consistently between TGs; externally, this would serve as guidance. Doug and Michal cautioned not to underestimate the difficulty of agreeing on common definitions even within STRATOS. Examples of glossaries will be shared. As TGs prepare guidance documents it would be useful to list and define the terms used in those. Marianne and Willi started working on this, and are

investigating the potential to build an ontology framework for the terms needed. Interested volunteers to help would be very welcome.

- e. [Communication within STRATOS \(how to share information, technical solutions, how to improve, what is required\)](#). An idea is to use TG specific dropboxes for sharing within TGs, and also a dropbox for the steering group that all members can access or partially access.
  - f. [Data sets \(what is available, what is helpful, how to handle them\)](#). Larger datasets are required to illustrate issues, compare methods etc. To analyze real data it is the norm that issues from several topic groups are present. Therefore it would be helpful having datasets which can be used by several TGs, obvious with different aims. Many open access dataset can be found on the web but it requires work to identify whether a data set can be helpful for methodological research. Propose to start a data set committee.
4. [Topic groups](#)
- a. [Summaries from the TGs 1-8](#). Attached.
  - b. [New TG9 on high dimensional data](#). In the SG a new TG on high-dimensional data was discussed for a while. Jörg Rahnenführer and Lisa McShane (NCI, US) started with discussions for such a group. None of the SG members disagreed and we will start TG9 officially during the ISCB meeting in Utrecht. Jörg, Lisa and Willi will discuss the next steps.
  - c. [New topics?](#) None
5. [Other business](#). None

**Meeting adjourned: 6:29pm (=UTC+1)**

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Huebner and Willi Sauerbrei

**Attachments:**

Summaries from TG activities

**Action items for SG members: Please respond until August17, 2015.**

1. Are you interested in participating in the membership committee? Yes/No (see 2.b.i)
2. Are you interested in participating in the publication committee? Yes/No (see 2.d.i)

3. Are you interested in participating in the data set committee? Yes/No (see 3.f)
4. Would you like to be a contact person for a professional society? (see 2.c)
5. Please send a short bio and/or link for the website update. (see 3.c)
6. Would you be interested in helping with a STRATOS glossary? (see 3.d)