INTEGRATE-LMEDC

GAP ANALYSIS – DELPHI STUDY

PARTICIPATION LETTER

The **INTEGRATE-LMedC** project (https://www.integratelmc.eu/), funded by the European Commission Horizon Europe program, aims to provide guidance and support to develop a research infrastructure to facilitate large medical cohort studies (LMedC).

One of the first steps in the project is to identify **areas of unmet medical need** that could **potentially benefit from research arising from large medical and population cohorts**. We believe that by identifying areas lacking adequate cohort studies, we can help prioritize the allocation of resources and attention to these domains.
Stimulating cohort studies in fields with high unmet medical needs will provide the opportunity to:

- Allow the observation of a group of people over an extended period of time, leading to a better understanding of how diseases develop, progress and interact with different factors over time.
- Establish correlations and if possible causal relationships between exposures and outcomes, meaning that by following individuals before the development of a condition/disease, tracking their exposure could help determine if there is a cause-effect relationship.
- Provide valuable insights that can potentially be used to improve treatment outcomes, particularly regarding safety.

In order to identify the **areas of unmet medical** needs, we will perform a questionnaire-based study using Delphi methodology. You have been selected as an expert having knowledge of different areas in health research. Your knowledge and expertise would be very relevant for us to help identify these **areas of unmet medical needs**.

The Delphi method seeks to obtain consensus on the opinions of experts through a series of structured questionnaires. The study has two iterations, the 1st round until the end of July 2024 and the 2nd round until mid-September 2024. In each of them, the responses from each round are fed back in summarized form to the participants who are then given an opportunity to respond.

All survey rounds will be administered using Qualtrics software (Qualtrics, Provo, UT). Qualtrics is a robust web application designed for creating surveys with sophisticated response formats, various distribution methods, and efficient data management capabilities. The software adheres to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and is compliant with regulations pertaining to the processing and storage of protected health information.

Given the selection methodology we have used, we cannot substitute you by another expert.

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We would very much appreciate your participation. We will try to keep the questionnaires as short as possible with around 10 questions.

As mentioned above, we aim to identify **areas of unmet medical need** that could **potentially benefit from research arising from large medical cohorts.** You can find out more about how we define large medical cohorts below (link):
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1poS0LK2lyanuicM8Zk8diX3XQsZxq7gM/view?usp=drive_link

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider your participation, we would really appreciate it. Your participation could be anonymous, but we would rather include you in the list of experts of the project.

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