

SCRS Digital Innovation Initiative

Year in Review - November 2020

The SCRS Digital Innovation Initiative has made great progress this year as both the Decentralized Trials and Connected Devices workstreams strive towards producing resources that will positively impact the research site community. These are now timelier than ever given the course the industry has taken as a result of the pandemic and the challenges it has brought. Both groups are focusing on developing a best practices and recommendations publication that will provide valuable insights into what it means to employ each of their respective technologies and innovations. These documents will contain tools, resources, best practices, and guidance all with the goal of enabling a deeper level of understanding at the site level and in some instances at the industry level.

The year started out with us selecting our workstream chairs. These chairs serve in leadership roles, helping shape the information and insights gathered at each of the workstream meetings, as well as making final decisions on the progress being made. MaryAnn Rizk, PhD and Michael King from IQVIA and Sanofi respectively lead the Connected Devices Group. Our Decentralized Trials workstream is led by Deena Bernstein from TrialScout and Amanda Rangel from VirTrial. Their leadership has been invaluable and truly critical as we drive these programs forward. Each workstream under their guidance completed first the terms and definitions that we will be perpetuating throughout the publication. This helped us level-set as a multi-stakeholder group and agree upon acceptable language.

Once The groups completed this terms document to align on terminology, attention was shifted to what the scope of work would be. This section encompasses the deliverables, constraints, goals, and purpose of this publication so that the subsequent deliverables are developed under a mutually accepted path. The groups both near completion of the scope of work statements, which should be complete by the end of the year 2020. These will then serve as the guidance for the next phase of work.

The next year will see the planned completion of the project, with the beginning part of the year focusing on the development and creation of the deliverables themselves. In this stage the teams bring their experience and expertise to bring the recommendations to life in the form of a tangible and usable tool for those it was designed to assist – the sites. These will be things like guidance's for technology implementation, best practices in their usage, and information to alleviate their concerns and questions. All with the intention of advancing their understanding of the respective digital innovations so they are better prepared and ultimately, more sustainable.

The groups are slated to pick work back up in mid-January where they will dive right into the development of the deliverables, with a goal of having produced a tangible iteration by the 2021 Global Site Solutions Summit.