

Objectives of the Inaugural Meeting

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In this session, Dr Holman will facilitate a 'whiteboard' discussion of the objectives that those attending the inaugural meeting wish to achieve during the two days in London. It is proposed that these objectives should be a combination of the original aims of the meeting as foreshadowed in the invitations to attend by the meeting's convenor, Emma Fuller, together with what emerges by way of the collective views expressed by the participants, who may wish to modify, extend or enhance the original aims.

The convenor's broad aim of the meeting, which therefore provides a baseline for the discussion, has been stated as follows:

"To bring together representative of centres and initiatives from around the world to discuss data linkage methods, applications, the feasibility of comparable linked health data studies and to decide upon the future direction of the consortium."

In addition, the convenor has advised that she hopes that as a result of the sharing of information and common interests fostered during the participants' deliberations, that by the end of the meeting it will be possible to identify principles to guide the development of the International Health Data Linkage Consortium during its formative phase in three particular ways:

1. A statement of principles concerning the purpose of the consortium.
2. A statement of principles concerning how the purpose of the consortium will be pursued during its formative phase.
3. A statement of principles concerning how members of the consortium will work together during its formative phase.

The convenor has suggested that these statements of principles should be kept short and that the principles should be expressed in fairly general terms supported by illustrative examples to aid interpretation.

Dr Holman will ask the participants to discuss the convenor's aims and to consider if they wish to modify, extend or enhance them in any way. Once a consensus emerges, the meeting will be asked to adopt a confirmed set of objectives of the inaugural meeting.

Any time left over at this point in the program will be available to commence discussions towards achieving the meeting's objectives.