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February 23, 2018

Eric Dishman

Director, *All of Us* Research Program

9000 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Director Dishman:

The American Lung Association is pleased to have the opportunity to comment and provide suggestions on the research priorities of the All of Us Research Program.

The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary public health association in the United States. For more than 110 years, the Lung Association has been working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research.

The Lung Association strongly supports the All of Us Research Program. This initiative will build one of the largest, most diverse datasets for health research and has great potential to advance lung health research that will benefit the 33.6 million Americans with chronic lung diseases.

To help the All of Us Research Program identify promising research questions that could improve our understanding of lung diseases, the Lung Association has consulted with our scientific advisors and submitted the following questions through your online system and copied below for your reference.

What is the impact of treatment guidelines on patient outcomes?

There are guidelines/practice parameters for the treatment of lung diseases, and these evidence-based documents are updated regularly. However, it is unclear whether these guidelines are employed by practitioners and if so, what effects they have on patient care and outcomes. By collecting patient-reported information on their lung diseases, symptoms of their diseases, and treatments, it should be

possible to determine how well these guidelines are followed and their impact on patient outcomes.

What exposures impact the natural history of lung disease and its severity?

It is well known that the environment, behavior and occupation play an important role in the development of lung diseases. We suggest tracking data on variables that can further elucidate these relationships, including detailed tobacco use histories (including products used), occupational exposures, and environmental exposures (including residential). This can help determine exposures that lead to development of fixed airway obstruction and are associated with increased severity of lung disease.

How can digital images be collected to assist with disease tracking and analysis?

Key to making this database even more useful to future researchers would be to determine how to make raw DICOM image files available for future analysis. This would allow CT images to be used to enhance the understanding of the development of lung and other diseases in future research.

Thank you for opportunity to comment on the research priorities of the All of Us Research Program. We look forward to continuing to work with you as you move forward with this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Rappaport, MPH
Vice President, Research and Scientific Affairs

CC: James P. Kiley, Ph.D.
Director, Lung Division, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

