DDI-CDI Next Steps: Early 2022

# Introduction

This document is intended to provide the DDI-CDI working group contact for the Scientific Board, Simon Hodson, with a quick picture of the next steps within the DDI-CDI Working Group. It is intended to be the background to further discussions in meetings between the WG and Simon, to answer questions and explore any possibilities raised there.

# Current Activities and Planning

The CDI WG has been focused in the recent past on finishing the DDI-CDI specification for submission to the Technical Committee and consequent publication for vote and approval. A webinar is planned as part of the release activities prior to the vote, to help members of the DDI community understand the purpose of the specification and to help them to evaluate it.

Future plans may be found in the Scientific Work Plan 2021-2022 (https://ddialliance.org/sites/default/files/DDIAlliance\_Scientific\_Work\_Plan\_2021-2022.pdf) and the DDI Alliance Strategic Plan 2021-2023 (https://ddialliance.org/sites/default/files/DDIAlliance\_Strategic\_Plan\_2021-2023.pdf). This report describes shorter-term goals for immediate work following the finalization of the DDI-CDI 1.0 draft specification.

# Topics

The following topics have been discussed within the WG as important next steps, and are in process of being planned, prioritized, and executed. Some re-organization of the WGs sub-committees is anticipated, but this is not yet final. This list is offered as an in-process one which is currently under discussion.

1. **RDF Syntax Representation:** Achim Wackerow and Pierre-Antoine Champin (of W3C) have started an implementation of an RDF syntax representation (in addition to the existing XML Schema representation) in Acceleo (https://www.eclipse.org/acceleo/), an open source implementation of the OMG standard MOF Model to Text Transformation Language (https://www.omg.org/spec/MOFM2T/). Given the demand for such a syntax representation, this is seen as a high-priority target.
2. **Improved XML Syntax Representation:** The specification release candidate will include an XML syntax representation. An improved version has been produced but not yet tested. This will be considered for release following the production of the specification.
3. **Methodology for Implementation Guides:** At Dagstuhl in 2021, an initial draft of a methodology for creating community specific implementation guides for DDI-CDI was developed. This work has now become a higher priority, as it is seen as an important part of helping implementors use the specification, and to drive adoption.
4. **Mapping to Other Standards:** Because DDI-CDI is designed to work with other standards, mappings and documentation here is important. This covers both other DDI specifications such as DDI Codebook and DDI-Lifecycle, but also covers non-DDI standards such as Schema.org, DCAT, PROV, OMOP, and others. Many of these were prototyped at the Dagstuhl workshops this past fall but have yet to be formalized. In addition, a mapping to SDMX is anticipated. This is seen as high-priority in order to support adoption and early implementation of the DDI-CDI spec.
5. **Other Syntax Representations:** A general approach to specifying syntax representations is being developed. The UML model presents a unique resource for generating syntax representations in tools such as Eclipse, but the specific approach to this needs to be further developed.

Note that the documentation and management of all code used in the production of the specification is a priority here, although not an immediate deliverable. It has been discussed with Wendy Thomas how best to coordinate these efforts within the DDI-CDI group with those of other DDI WGs which are producing specifications, so that the Alliance can more easily manage their overall production moving forward. These efforts are currently being documented within the CDI WG, but we have not yet finalized this with the TC, which represents a next step as we go forward with the release.

Please note that other topics are also being discussed within the WG, but this presents the ones which seem to be highest priority. For more information, please see the meeting minutes in Confluence.