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Session: How to Conduct a Research Study in VINCI

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Heidi: Again, thank you everyone for joining us for today's VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure Cyberseminar. Today's session is How to Conduct a Research Study in VINCI. Today's presenter is Tim Trautman. Tim is a VINCI IT business analyst located at the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System. And with that, I am going to turn things over to Tim.

Tim Trautman: Thank you very much. Alright, let me go ahead and share here. Okay, Heidi, can you see the slide?

Heidi: Yeah, perfect. Thanks!

Tim Trautman: Alright. Wonderful! Alright, well thank you all for coming. Also I'd like to mention that following the Cyberseminar after they have posted this to the HSR&D site, we will also post the link to that site and to the Cyberseminar from our VINCI central site under VINCI University for education. Alright. Again, thank you all for coming. Today's presentation, How to Conduct a Research Study in VINCI. My name is Tim Trautman, IT Project Manager here. And let's go ahead and get started.

Okay. Today we're going to focus on using VINCI resources. So we're going to focus on studies that are conducting IRB research. You’re going to be using VINCI services. You're going to request data access from NDS, that's National Data Systems. You're going to be using VINCI and CDW data and you're going to be using the VINCI Workspace. So the full nine yards. And then you see at the bottom there is our VINCI central website that I was just talking about.

Okay, there's essentially six basic steps, last one being optional. The first step is get a VINCI Concierge to assist you. So there's many things that our Concierge team can do for you. One of them is a Feasibility Assessment, and we'll go into more about that, but that's basically, is there enough people to conduct the study that I need to do. This next one, 1b, is a Data Needs Assessment, and we'll go into that more of course. And that's basically, where do I find the data that I need.

Alright, number two, create your protocol and get an IRB letter. Third step, for Real SSN. You need your IRB to sign the Real SSN Access form. And number four, you request data access with DART, and that's asking NDS for permission. Number five, VINCI data and project provisioning is handled right after the DART. And lastly, you use the VINCI Workspace to do your analysis. And lastly, optional training, always available.

Okay, let's talk about feasibility. So a feasibility request is done prior to starting a protocol or a study. So you want to know do I have enough patients to conduct the study that you want. And basically the Feasibility Assessment will return a simple number. You have X number of patients available for this type of study. So to request a feasibility determination, you simply send the following information to VINCI@va.gov. And you're going to send the primary investigator's name. We'll need a phone number and email address. Then we'll need a detailed description of the project that helps us determine what, how to best serve your needs.

And then we're also going to need inclusion criteria. These can be ICD-9 codes. They can be CPT codes. They can be labs, etc. But we're also going to need exclusion criteria, what codes you don't want to include. What CPT codes you don't want to include, what labs you don't want to include. We're going to need a study population and do you want national or do you need it by station or stations. We'll need that as well. And lastly, we'll need a study period, so the dates to be included. That can be calendar years, fiscal years, whatever you need. Our VINCI Data team will then contact you to discuss the request and set expectations. And these requests can take up to three weeks, but they're well worth it.

Next is a Data Needs Assessment. We call it a DNA. This is where we help you figure out, discover the data that you need to conduct your study and how to get access approvals. It is not Prep to Research where you explore the data yourself. That's entirely different. A Data Needs Assessment will deliver a list of variables mapped to CDW data and a CDW checklist for your DART request.

So to get one, again send your request to VINCI@va.gov. We're going to need a couple things from you. We're going to need your protocol or something similar on your study, an extensive description of what kind of data you are looking for. Out data team again will contact you and discuss your request, and this can take up to two weeks, but it's going to save you a ton of time in trying to find the data yourself because we have people that are well versed in the data whose only job is to understand the data and where to find it. So it's part of our Concierge team and one of the services we offer here at VINCI for free.

Alright. Next you're going to create your protocol and get an IRB. So you're getting, of course, everyone starts with a protocol. You need to get a HIPAA waiver or patient consent. You're going to need one or the other. When you get your IRB, you're going to need an IRB from each location where an investigator is involved. You're going to use the VINCI Description for IRBs and the VINCI Information Security Description. Now you're going to use both of those in your IRB, and those are available from VINCI Central in our IRB Research Study page.

Okay, for Real SSN, you'll need a Real SSN Access Request form, as I mentioned, signed by your IRB before you request data. It's for justifying the use of real Social Security numbers. And if you need more information, you can find it on the Data Portal website at vhadataportal.med.va.gov and then go to the Data Access Request Tracker page, and that's under Tools.

Okay, to request data access, you're going to use DART, and that's the Data Access Request Tracker. It's an online application used by National Data Systems to approve access to various data sources including CDW and VINCI data. It basically uses a 4-screen wizard to collect information and documentation, and depending on what you enter into the wizard, it will tell you exactly what documents are needed and it'll give you a page to upload those documents. Then after you submit your request, it will distribute the request to approving authorities who will go online, look at your documentation, and then give approvals online. They can also come back with questions. It's called a change request. So if there's something that didn't get signed or they’ve got a question about why you're trying to do this or that, the other thing, they'll manage, they'll contact you through the application itself as it has a messaging feature. And of course, if you need assistance at any time when filling out a DART request, contact VINCI@va.gov. We're more than happy to assist you.

Okay, this is going to be a little bit of a canned demo on DART before we get into the rest of the process. So this is the DART screen when you go into it. You're going to go to your request tab and you click on New Request, and you see it pops up a little window. And then you're going to enter in your official study name and then you're going to select the Request Type. And there's two types. There's Preparatory to Research Access and Research Data Access. So you'll want to click on Research Data Access.

And then after you initiate your request, you'll get an email. And this is what it looks like. And this email it’s just going to tell you you've started a DART request, and it also most importantly contains an attachment called DART Considerations. This is a multi-page document that basically gives you a lot of really good information on how to fill out your DART request and things to think about when submitting your DART request and what to expect. So please, if you start a DART request, take a look at that document when you receive it.

Okay, after you've filled out that initial study information, you're taken to the first page of the 4-page wizard, and it's called Activity Information. This is where you can put in a short name or a nickname of what your study is because a lot of these studies have long convoluted names that are very scientific, but to you it may just be BTSD in the workplace. Who knows? So just a short name. Then you're going to put in your IRB number. You need an IRB expiration date and then your study start date and your study end date. Then you hit the Next button to go to the next page of the wizard.

And this is called Participants. So this is where you're going to put in all your investigators and the people that are doing the analysis, your study coordinators, anyone that needs access to the data. Now you can add people to this list who do not need data access, and this is where the study coordinator position comes in. So if, the study coordinator usually never needs data access, but they're the people who are putting together the request for access. So you can add them as well or they can actually initiate the request themselves and just not select data access for themselves. So this gives them the ability to manage the request without actually being part of the request. So in this, again, you'll put in all the people involved as investigators and their locations. And then on the right you'll have to select who is the principal investigator at each location. And then the primary investigator will be indicated by a filled star, whereas a hollow star is a secondary investigator and at a separate location. Also I'd like to point out if any of your personnel need access to CAPRI/VistAWeb or what's coming Joint Legacy Viewer, this is where you would select access to that.

Alright, continuing on to page three. This is your Data Sources. So this can be several screens long, so bear with me. In your Data Sources, you're going to start by selecting your Data Storage Location. So you can select one of two locations, VINCI or a local server. Actually you can have both because a lot of people what they do is they'll do their, they'll want to like build a mailing list to send to people to get them involved in the study. So a lot of people use VINCI to create that list. Then they want to download it to a local server and use that as a mailing list. So you'll want to indicate both locations for storage. And then of course if you select local, you need to provide us a name of the facility, the address, building, right down to the room number of the server so we know where that data is actually stored. And that's an ORD policy.

Alright, next it's going to ask you will data be transferred external to the VHA. If no, continue on. If yes, you're going to have to have a DUA, a Data Use Agreement. And then you're going to select identifiers. So this can be real SSN, scrambled SSN, or identifiable data but no real or scrambled SSNs, and this is going to be your patient ICN numbers.

Continuing down the page, we get to the data sources. So first data source up, Corporate Data Warehouse. This is the biggie. So it's all SQL formatted. You got your production domains, raw domains, and many more. Then carrying on we also have Mainframe Access. So if you want, if you have someone who is savvy in accessing a mainframe and using it, you can select one of these accesses. And to get mainframe access, just a heads up, the first step in that is you have to fill out a 9957 and submit that to your local CUPS point of contact so they can provision you to access the mainframe. That doesn't actually give you access to the mainframe. It just sets you up for access, like creates your account.

Other data sources we have available, of course CAPRI/VistAWeb. And you'll see here that it's grayed out. That's because you select CAPRI/VistAWeb access back on the Participants page. But if you, if anyone did select that, this would show up as checked automatically. And of course we have things like CAN Scores, HERC data, Homeless Registry, Legacy Warehouse, although I don't think anyone really uses that. We got MCA Web Reports. The OEF/OIF Roster File is no longer available for research, so that's grayed out. We also have the PACT Implementation Index, and of course Surgical Quality Data Users Group, or SQDUG. And lastly, VSSC Web Reports. So that's a rundown of the various data sources available.

Ok, then we get into Data Access Systems, so this is, the SAS Grid, that's the VINCI SAS Grid. So if you have someone that wants to use the SAS Grid for analysis using Enterprise Guide, you would check this box. If you forget to do that and after you've submitted your request and it's approved, then you decide you want to use the SAS Grid later, hey, just send us an email, VINCI@va.gov, and we'll turn it on for you. And lastly, we get into the HIPAA requirement. So does your study require an informed consent and HIPAA authorization or does your study require a HIPAA waiver, so make the correct selections.

Okay, then we get into the fourth page. And this is Required Documents. So from all the information you put on the first three pages, we have a rules engine on the back end that says okay you want this, that, and the other thing, and you're doing this and you have these participants. Okay, we're going to need these documents. So it'll specifically lay out all the documents you need. The typical documents are the Research Request Memo, your IRB Approval Letter, then your HIPAA Authorization, either the waiver or the consent. You're going to need your Research and Development Letter. Then you're going to need your Research Protocol. And then if you selected any of the CDW production or raw domains for a data source, you're going to need to supply a checklist, and that's also, all these forms are available from the VHA Data Portal. And that checklist is just basically a rundown of, a breakdown of all the different domains available in production and all the different ones available in CDW raw. And then on that checklist you would select which of those particular domains you need access to. And then lastly, if you wanted Real SSN, it's going to ask for Real SSN Access Request form.

And then it, for any secondary locations we're also going to need IRB letters, R&D letters, and any HIPAA documents as well. And then for individuals, depending on what you select for data sources, it may ask you for individual documents, such as if you selected Vital Status, there's the Vital Status Rules of Behavior. If you selected CAPRI/VistAWeb, it's going to ask you for Electronic Health Record Access form. And this would do all the figuring out for you and ask for that. So you would upload those documents.

And once you get those uploaded, you'll see here on the right it shows you the name of the document. It automatically renames the document for you. And you can upload a PDF or a Word document. Now those are the only two types of documents allowed. So again, upload documents.

And then after you're finished uploading documents, it's time to submit your request. So the last screen is Submit. Quite frankly, just easy hit the Submit Request button and you're done with your request. Now it goes to National Data Systems.

And here's a little flow chart that shows what happens after the request is submitted. So if there's, if one of the data sources is National Data Systems, it would go to NDS for their initial review. That's the line on the left. And then after the initial NDS review, they'll determine who else needs to review this request and approve it. So if it's a Real SSN request, it will go to ORD. Every, all the requests go to Security and Privacy for review as well. And if there's, for instance if there's a data source like homeless, it's going to go to yet another data reviewer for review. And after all those reviewers have reviewed, got their answers for any questions they have from you, they will go ahead and approve. And after all those approvals are in, it goes back to NDS for a final review, and then NDS would approve. Now once that's approved, it's called Request Completed. Unless you have an independent approver, and that's for example your SQDUG, Surgical Quality Data Use Group. They're an independent approver. That's the line on the right. So they do their own review of their own request, and they approve. So you can ask for, do that all in parallel. So once that's all done, your request is complete, then you get access to your data. And then also at that point if you need to amend the request to add people or update an IRB Letter, that's when you'd make an amendment. Ok, that was DART in a nutshell.

After DART comes VINCI provisioning. So VINCI is automatically notified of approvals by DART. That's one of the things it does. It sends it to our Help Desk and to our data managers so they can begin provisioning. For example, the Help Desk begins provisioning your Workspace access and your study data folder. And that can take up to five business days. And then the VINCI Data Manager is assigned specifically to work one on one with your project. And they begin by creating a study correspondence SharePoint site and that, and then any group directories. These are AD groups of people that are going to have data access. And then they also set up the database, and that again can take up to five business days. Any communications between your study and the VINCI Data Manager run through that SharePoint correspondence site so that there's a record of it. It's not an email back and forth thing. It's all done through the SharePoint site, so it's a good solid record.

Here's a little flow chart of how we do fulfillment. So the VINCI Data Manager gets a DART notification just like you get a DART notification that it's approved. That Data Manager is assigned. He goes in and creates various things as I mentioned, and then he will send a welcome email through the correspondence site. And when you get that, that's when you respond. And then you start working one on one, going back and forth on what you need as far as data. Now we have the submission that you asked for, but we start getting into the minutiae of creating a cohort for you and getting the data to you. So you'll go back and forth with them until you have exactly what you want.

Alright. After you've got your data, time to crunch numbers. So that's where the VINCI Workspace comes in. The VINCI Workspace is firewalled, and of course that's for data security. That's so we don't let our Veterans' data get away from us. It's one of our charges here at VINCI is to protect that data at all costs. One of the things we give you in the Workspace, computing power. Lots of power. We just got in a whole bunch of new servers this past fiscal year, and they're up and running. We also give you software tools. We got lots of analysis tools. We give you databases. We give you access to SAS/Grid if you want that. And we also give you file and data storage. So there's plenty to go around, resources for people. We give you more than enough to start with, quite frankly.

So next, so you can access the VINCI Workspace from outside the VA, through one of the VPN solutions like Rescue and CAG. So that gives you ability to telework as well as have university collaborators that can access. The VINCI Workspace and shared project folders allow for that national collaboration in the research group. And it comes in two variations. We got a standard workspace and a development workspace. And that's for basically software development or custom analysis.

And then one of the things we always tell everyone, please follow the guides. Basically if you have a question, it's probably answered in one of these guides. So there's a VINCI Workspace User Guide, there's a Database User Guide, and there's also a File Transfer Guide. And these are all on VINCI Central under User Guides.

Then there's optional training. So if you need training to use one of VINCI's resources, simply contact VINCI@va.gov, and one of our Concierge team will contact you. There's also self-service training on VINCI Central. There's the VINCI Tube. We have video tutorials and Cyberseminars. There's VINCI University. We also have videos, user guides, Cyberseminars, other resources. Plus we also have a lot of presentations posted to that site as well. And then there's VINCIpedia. It's a wiki that we have available. It has frequently asked questions. It also has, I mentioned earlier DART Considerations. That's a document that, you know, is sent to you when you initiate a request, but we also have the same information available in the wiki. We also have VINCI Data Topics. These are links to a lot of various data presentations, data resources, and things to understand data. And then also links to policy handbooks.

Alright, we're already at the end. However, I want to go back for a minute and talk about file transfer. So one of the things in VINCI is because of that firewall we have file transfer utilities. There's the utility for uploading files through the firewall to your VINCI study space, and there's also a utility for downloading files. Now on the download, one of the things we do is we audit your downloads to make sure that you're not removing unauthorized PHI or PII in violation of your protocol or your IRB or your data request. So keep in mind that when you download files that we will be checking against your download against your documentation to make sure that you're authorized to download that information. Now if it's aggregate data or something that doesn't contain PHI, PII, that is perfectly fine to download without permission. But if you need to download something that does contain patient data, you do need permission from the data steward and if you find once you're at the end of your study you need to download something that is PHI, PII, you would do a DART amendment and then you would request from National Data Systems to download that data to a local server.

Okay, that went fairly quick. I guess we'll open up the, for questioning. Heidi?

Heidi: We, fantastic. We do have a few pending questions out here. For everyone else, please take this opportunity. We have a lot of time for questions, so please send those in. The first question here, I submitted a request from the VINCI Concierge phone help line about 10 days ago. I understand that it may take more time to answer my request, but how can we check on the status of our request? Do I need to resubmit via the email address?

Tim Trautman: Yeah, I would just follow up with the Concierge. Usually they're extremely quick about turning that around. Surprised anything takes 10 days unless it's a feasibility request or Data Needs Assessment. But I would just follow up with another email, and I'll mention that to our Concierge to keep an eye out for it.

Heidi: Okay.

Tim Trautman: Thanks.

Heidi: Thank you. The next question here, so you need an IRB approval to check for the feasibility of the study?

Tim Trautman: No. As a matter of fact, you do the feasibility before you go to the IRB because the whole point of doing a feasibility study is to answer the basic question, are there enough patients to conduct my study. And if the answer turns out to be, okay, you've got 150 patients or 150,000 patients, and you feel that's sufficient basis for your study, then you would create your IRB. So that helps you determine whether or not the study is feasible.

Heidi: Sounds good. Next question here, are there any self-service trainings available on how to write SQL server queries on VINCI Central?

Tim Trautman: Actually on VINCI Central we don't have any SQL training on VINCI Central, but on VINCI University there's a section called Other Resources, and in that we have links to other SQL training. So there's SQL training online that's free online. And then there's also SQL training in TMS, the Talent Management System, that's available to VA employees. So there is SQL training out there. There's also, CDW has a SQL training as well. So, and links to that are, again, available from the VINCI University on VINCI Central under Other Resources.

Heidi: Great! Thank you. The next question, can you give any tips on how best to work with the Data Manager?

Tim Trautman: I would say just be expressive about your needs. They are more than willing to work with you one on one to pull the exact data you need. Sometimes you may be asking for something that you're not authorized to have. In that case, you would just do a DART amendment and then you could get access to that information. They're really the best people to talk to and very knowledgeable about the data. And you know, sometimes you don't understand how to phrase a question or how to ask for the exact data you want. Just give them parameters, and they can, they've done this thousands of times. So they're more than happy to work with you to figure out exactly what it is you need.

Heidi: Great, thank you. The next question here, please elaborate on the ability to access data from the Dialysis Dashboard. Is this like a seed data warehouse?

Tim Trautman: The Dialysis Dashboard, that's I believe a VSSC product. It's not a VINCI product. So I can't elaborate on that. You'd have to go to VSSC for that.

Heidi: Ok, thank you. The next question here, I can see R statistical computing is already installed on a VINCI Workspace, but this is just base R and typically it requires to install add-on R packages which require external internet access. Same thing applies to base Python and its add-on packages. How can I have those add-on packages installed?

Tim Trautman: Very simple. Just send an email to VINCI@va.gov, tell us what R packages you need, and our System Admin team will install them for you. And we have an R server just for that. So again, just send your request to VINCI@va.gov, and one of our SA team members will install that for you.

Heidi: Great. Thank you. Next question, if a study member is just writing SQL code, what type of permissions do they need in DART?

Tim Trautman: Well, SQL code has nothing to do with DART. DART is data access permissions. So SQL is a programming language. So they're apples and oranges. The data that you get through DART, most of it will be in SQL format, though. Actually most of it will be in SQL format. So again, it's just apples and oranges. DART has nothing to do with the SQL. If you can elaborate more I can probably give you a better answer. Thanks.

Heidi: Okay we’ll wait, well wait and see if they send something in. The next question here, do researchers have access to CMS data for Veterans who are hospitalized outside the VA. Over sixty-five year old they’re looking at here.

Tim Trautman: CMS data is available, I can’t speak to whether or not it’s available for Veterans outside the VA system. ‘Cause I’m not familiar enough with the CMS data itself. But if you do need CMS data you will request that through VIReC but you can access CMS data on VINCI once you’ve got that VIReC permission.

Heidi: Great. Thank you. The next question here, I submitted a DART request and it was approved. The data is still not there. I can access the initial approved data but not this recent amendment.

Tim Trautman: Okay, it probably means it’s still being provided, provisioned I should say. So, again, you want to contact your assigned data manager through that correspondent site and ask them where’re we at with provisioning this data.

Heidi: Great. Thank you. And they sent in a second one here. Also can we use search terms for inclusion criteria if CPT codes will not work? Example, over two recent hospital stays.

Tim Trautman: Yes.

Heidi: Okay, thank you. Next question here, I need facility information for my study. Does VINCI have information about VA hospitals or is it just patient related information?

Tim Trautman: No I do believe we have facility information as well. Maybe not in the detail that you might be looking for but again, that’s where a data needs assessment would be invaluable. Again, just send what data you’re looking for to VINCI@va.gov and one of our data team members will take a look at that request and let you know if we have that kind of data available.

Heidi: Great thank you. And next question here, how long does a DART request take on average to be completed?

Tim Trautman: If you can have all your ducks in a row and they have no questions it can take as little as two weeks if not less. I think the average time right now is somewhere down to twelve days. Now if they have questions and they’ll do a change request and send that to you. Then the clock is ticking on your time and it’s the sooner you respond the sooner that they approve it. But it happens very quickly. And as a matter of fact when you do an amendment I’ve seen amendments go through in a matter of hours. So, they’re very efficient over there at National Data Systems.

Heidi: Great thank you. The next question here, if I can get approval for DoD to send VA data from a DoD study, can that information be uploaded into VINCI?

Tim Trautman: Yes it can. As long as you have permission to the data, you can upload the data into VINCI and do your analysis there.

Heidi: Great thank you. The next question here, does the data manager simply pull data for you and then you need to further crunch it?

Tim Trautman: Yes. That’s exactly it. We don’t do the analysis for you. We just provide the data in a data base. And then you would need someone who’s fluent in SQL to go in and do the actual analysis. And that’s one of the things studies don’t typically think about is, they want to do analysis but they also need to have someone who’s fluent in SQL to do the analysis. So when you’re standing up a team to do a study be sure to include someone who’s fluent in SQL that can do that number crunching for you.

Heidi: Great thank you. The next question here, I have a study team member who was able to do data analysis in VINCI. But our team has a more general question about coding on VA data. There is specific laboratory study that we are interested in across all VA sites, and need to find a way to identify how this laboratory value is labeled in VINICI for each VA site. We are hoping to QUERI VINCI for this lab result for all VA sites but need access to a list of names/labels for the laboratory value at each VA site. And I’m guess they’re wondering if that is possible.

Tim Trautman: It sounds like you’re looking for dimension tables to understand what the names of the various labs are. And that’s freely available to anyone in the VA at the CDW work dimension tables. You can, if you look in our database user guide, it’ll tell you how to access those tables and how to look up the various values. Also, if you have questions like that and you have a VINCI data manager you can contact them as well. Or if you don’t have VINCI data manager, you can contact VINCI@va.gov and we can get you an answer. But it should be in the dim tables if I understand the question correctly.

Heidi: Great. Thank you. The next question here, does VINCI offer SQL training or can you recommend a good source for SQL training?

Tim Trautman: Again, go to VINCI University under other resources and we have links again to outside SQL training. CDW SQL training as well as TMS SQL training.

Heidi: Thank you. I’ve got a question and how do we access the dim tables? What is the website?

Tim Trautman: So the database is called CDW work. I don’t know the URL off the top of my head, the path to that database. But if you go to VINCI central and look in user guides under VINCI guides there’s a database user guide and that has the exact steps to access that database.

Heidi: Great, thank you. And it looks like that is all of the questions that we have in right now. Just talking really slow to see if there are any others that are being submitted right now. Not seeing anything else come in.

Tim Trautman: There was an item posted in chat, how can I get a copy of your slides for future reference? They will be posted again, as you see there’s a link to where you can find them. And that’s on the HSR&D site. Also, probably tomorrow after the slides get posted we’ll put a link on VINCI central under VINCI University and our cyber seminar section that will link to this presentation as well.

Heidi: And when we have it posted here, we typically send an email out to everyone with a link to the archives. They’ll be able to access the video recording and access the slides from that link. So just keep an eye on your email and we’ll be sending that out to everyone who did register. So we try to make it easy.

Tim Trautman: Perfect.

Heidi: Yeah.

Tim Trautman: Alright any last questions?

Heidi: I just got a question from someone could you please answer my question about DART permissions that I had?

Tim Trautman: Well DART permissions\_

Heidi: [unintelligible 39:33] It is, no it’s the person who sent in what, if they’re just rating SQL codes what DART permissions do they need?

Tim Trautman: Oh so again, DART is for getting access to the data. Once you get access to the data that’s when you start using SQL code on the data. So, DART just is, just basically a list of databases that are available. And then you would ask permission to access certain databases and once you’ve got that access permission granted then, you’re given access to the databases and then you would do the SQL programming against that database.

Heidi: Okay. If they have additional confusion they may need to write into the, is it, VINCI@va.gov? They’d be able to help them further on that?

Tim Trautman: Yeah. If anyone has any questions about anything VINCI to send it VINCI@va.gov and our help desk guy Matt Smith, he’s very efficient. He will get that to the right people. And we’ll get you an answer. We’re here to help you. VINCI is a full service shop for researchers, and whatever you need we know where to find it.

Heidi: So they sent in an update there. So they don’t need to be on the IRB study staff, for the study?

Tim Trautman: Okay, so that’s different. Yes. If you’re going to access the data you do need to be on the IRB as someone with permission to access the data. So you, anyone that’s going to be touching the data, looking at the data, definitely has to be on the IRB and on the DART request.

Heidi: Okay great. Got a couple more questions in here. If a lab has different names, is it up to the researcher to ask for all of the various names or will the data manager know all the different names throughout the VA?

Tim Trautman: You would want to ask the data manager to include variations.

Heidi: Okay. And do you have, do you need to have a VINCI account before requesting a feasibility assessment?

Tim Trautman: Not at all. Feasibility is again your first step in the process long before you get to VINICI. You won’t get a VINCI account until your DART request is approved. Now again, if you have your own data and you don’t need a DART request, you can simply request a VINCI workspace from VINVI@va.gov and we can set you up and then you can upload your data into VINCI and use the tools that we have available for you.

Heidi: Okay great. It looks like we may have run out of questions again. Okay. Do the data requested come with a data dictionary?

Tim Trautman: Data dictionaries are available, now there’s links from VINCI central under data resources, uh, data sources. There’s links to various CDW sites for metadata and raw data. Also, to VIReC, they have these things called Factbooks. And these Factbooks are wonderful data dictionaries. VIReC does very good job of documenting the data. VINCI doesn’t have its own data definitions. We used to but VIReC and CDW are doing such a great job that we just use theirs as well.

Heidi: Great, thank you. How long do feasibility assessment requests typically take?

Tim Trautman: They can take two, three weeks.

Heidi: Okay. Thank you, that’s what we have for questions right now. Every time I say that we get a couple more in so.

Tim Trautman: Well I’d like to throw something in as well. So we have this thing called VINCI happy hour. It’s an open question and answer forum much like we’re bantering right now with questions, where researchers can call in and ask questions. It’s basically like a radio talk show. So we take questions from our listeners and give ‘em back answers. And that’s every third Wednesday of the month at one pm Mountain Time. That’s three pm Eastern Time. And if you go to our VINCI central website it’s always posted under events. And there’s also an announcement. So please feel free to join that VINCI happy hour every month. And we can do the same answer, question and answer.

Heidi: Perfect. Well, it looks like we may have run out of questions here. So Tim, if you don’t have anything else we will wrap things up for today.

Tim Trautman: I would like to thank everyone for coming today. I really appreciate it. Again, if you have any questions for me or for VINCI send them to VINCI@va.gov and we’re more than happy to help you. That’s what we’re here for, is to further research in the VA by providing the resources that researchers need. Thank you.

Heidi: Fantastic. Thank you so much Tim. To the audience, when I close the meeting out in just a moment here you will be prompted with a feedback form. Please take a few moments to fill that out. We really do appreciate all of your feedback. Thank you everyone for joining us for today’s HSR&D Cyberseminar and we look forward to seeing you at a future session. Thank you.

[End of recording 46:22 ]