

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

A clinical and scientific advisory group is comprised of practicing clinicians (physicians, nurses, and potentially allied health professionals), researchers, and scientists who are willing to share and discuss scientific insights and therapeutic approaches to address a public health emergency (PHE). These individuals may volunteer their expertise and time to serve as advisors or to take on other roles, as directed by the federal oversight team or its executive lead. The oversight team also may reach out directly to individuals to request their service, or to organizations to recruit (or designate) individuals to serve.

The Clinical and Scientific Advisory Group may serve for the duration of the PHE or for a more immediate time frame, depending on the oversight team's needs. General structural parameters and group expectations should be clearly expressed to the group to facilitate decision-making and provide understanding of how the group's input will inform oversight team decisions and actions. The oversight team may also set parameters on how group deliberations are referenced with other stakeholders and to the public or media (e.g., whether a group member speaks on behalf of the group or as an individual).

### **Group Structure:**

- Appoint a chairperson or co-chairpersons and grant them authority to organize agendas and invite new members.

- Commit to critically seeking the scientific truths underlying the PHE.

- Invite new members to attend meetings and participate in group activities.

- Establish weekly meetings to present research findings, interpret case studies, and review pre-print evidence and peer-reviewed publications on the basic science and clinical aspects of the emergency.

- Maintain a tone of humbleness as new evidence emerges about the pandemic or threat.

- Include all voices and points of view in the discussion.

- Build trust across members and encourage collegial debate.

- Consider how regulatory science will impact the research or interpretations of clinical findings science and vice versa.

### **Membership Characteristics:**

- Seek diversity among members (e.g., demographic, geographic, and socioeconomic).

- Include a diverse cross-section of scientists, clinicians, nurses, and public health individuals with a range of expertise, perspectives, and backgrounds.

- Include members who are actively conducting research on the emergency (e.g., prevention strategies, diagnostic innovations, treatments, health impact). They can include persons from the private sector, universities, bio-pharma companies, foundations, national labs, federal and state employers.