

August 5, 2021

**To:**

Prof. Dr. P. Hogendoorn, Dean LUMC  
Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC)  
Leiden, the Netherlands  
Email: P.C.W.Hogendoorn@lumc.nl

Prof. Dr. Mirjam van Reisen  
Chair, FAIR Data Science  
Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC)  
Leiden, the Netherlands  
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Prof. Dr. Mark A Musen  
Director, Stanford Center for Biomedical Informatics Research  
Professor of Medicine (Biomedical Informatics) and Biomedical Data Science  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
1265 Welch Road, Room X-271  
Stanford, CA. 94305-5479  
Email: musen@stanford.edu

Esteemed Prof. Hogendoorn, Prof. van Reisen and Prof. Musen,

*Re: Support of VODAN-Africa partnership with LUMC and CONDUIT for Bridge2AI*

I am writing to express my full support to the proposal prepared for the CONDUIT project of the Bridge2AI program.

I am making this endorsement in my capacity as Vice-Chancellor of Kampala International University (KIU) in Uganda and as Chairman of the Virus Outbreak Data Network (VODAN) – Africa.

I am confident that the consortium of Stanford University and CEDAR, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) and VODAN-Africa will be very successful.

I have collaborated with Prof. Dr. van Reisen in different international projects financed by the Dutch Organization for the Internationalization of Education (NUFFIC) to implement digitalization projects in Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia.

I have taken note of the incredible outreach and extensive network that VODAN-Africa and LUMC collectively have in Africa. The interest among key partners is clear.

VODAN-Africa emerged from the FAIR-Implementation Network Africa, established at an inception meeting in LUMC. It has been an honour to chair this network and to drive its expansion in Africa.

VODAN-Africa and Kampala International University has already collaborated with Stanford University, especially CEDAR.

We are fully in support of the new centre to be established: CONDUIT to improve data representativity and inclusion of data from hard-to-get populations, especially in Africa.

I have no doubt about the relevance of the research project and as Kampala International University we wish to express our full support.

I am honored to lead this initiative as the Chairperson of VODAN-Africa.

I express my full support and personal enthusiasm about this project.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mouhamad Mpezamihigo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo  
Vice-Chancellor  
Kampala International University  
Chair VODAN-Africa