

# Long COVID Computational Challenge



**National Institutes of Health**  
*Turning Discovery Into Health*



## Long COVID Computational Challenge (L3C) Webinar

September 21, 2022

# Zoom Rules of the Road

- This Webinar will be recorded
- All Participants, except the speakers and panelists, will be muted
- Auto Closed Captioning is available; to view, click the Live Transcript button
- Use the “Questions and Answers” function to ask questions and up-vote; questions will be answered during the Q&A session
- The recording and slides from today's webinar will be posted here: <https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/radx>
- See [Challenge.gov](https://www.challenge.gov) for more information on the L3C Challenge

# Presenters and Panelists

## Presenters:

**Orlando Lopez**, PhD (NIH/NIDCR)

**Tim Bergquist**, PhD (Sage Bionetwork)

## Additional Panelists:

**Josh Fessel**, MD, PhD (NIH/NCATS)

**Taylor Gilliland**, PhD (NIH/NIBIB)

**Erin Iturriaga**, DNP, MSN, RN (NIH/NHLBI)

**Asif Rizwan**, PhD (NIH/NHLBI)

**Ivonne Schulman**, MD (NIH/NIDDK)

# Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all those who contributed their time to this effort!

<b>Erin Iturriaga</b>	NHLBI	Bill Kapogiannis	NICHD
<b>Ivonne Schulman</b>	NIDDK	Susana Serrate-Sztein	NIAMS
<b>Jue Chen</b>	NHLBI	Asif Rizwan	NHLBI
<b>Orlando Lopez</b>	NIDCR	Taylor Gilliland	NIBIB
Amy Wernimont	CSR	Sweta Ladwa	NHLBI
Bonnie Joubert	NIEHS	Gabriel Anaya	NHLBI
Daniel Shaughnessy	NIEHS	Leonie Misquitta	NCATS
Danilo Tagle	NCATS	Rachel Scheinert	OD
Denny Buxton	NHLBI	Josh Fessel	NCATS
Joel Islam	OD	Timothy Bergquist	Sage Bionetwork
Qi Duan	NIBIB	Emily Pfaff	UNC
Yanli Wang	NLM	Johanna Loomba	UVA
Mary Pellemounter	NINDS	Rick Woychik	NIEHS

**Bolded names** indicate WG co-chairs

# L3C Webinar Agenda

- 1** | Background & Objectives 3:00 – 3:10 PM ET
- 2** | Challenge Administration 3:10 – 3:30 PM ET
- 3** | Q&A Session – 30 minutes 3:30 – 4:00 PM ET

# Community Challenges

## Format of a Challenge



### **The Question**

Challenge organizers pose a research question

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### **Build**

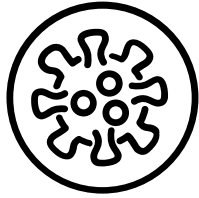
Participants build methods to answer that question

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### **Benchmark**

Challenge organizers benchmark those methods against a hidden gold standard

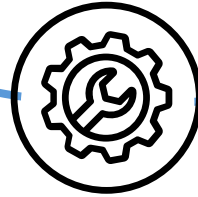
# L3C Challenge Overview



## PASC/Long COVID

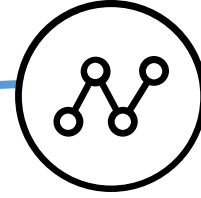
- Long term effects
- Persistent symptoms
- PASC\*/ Long COVID can affect anyone

\*PASC: Post-acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection



## Long COVID Computational Challenge (L3C)

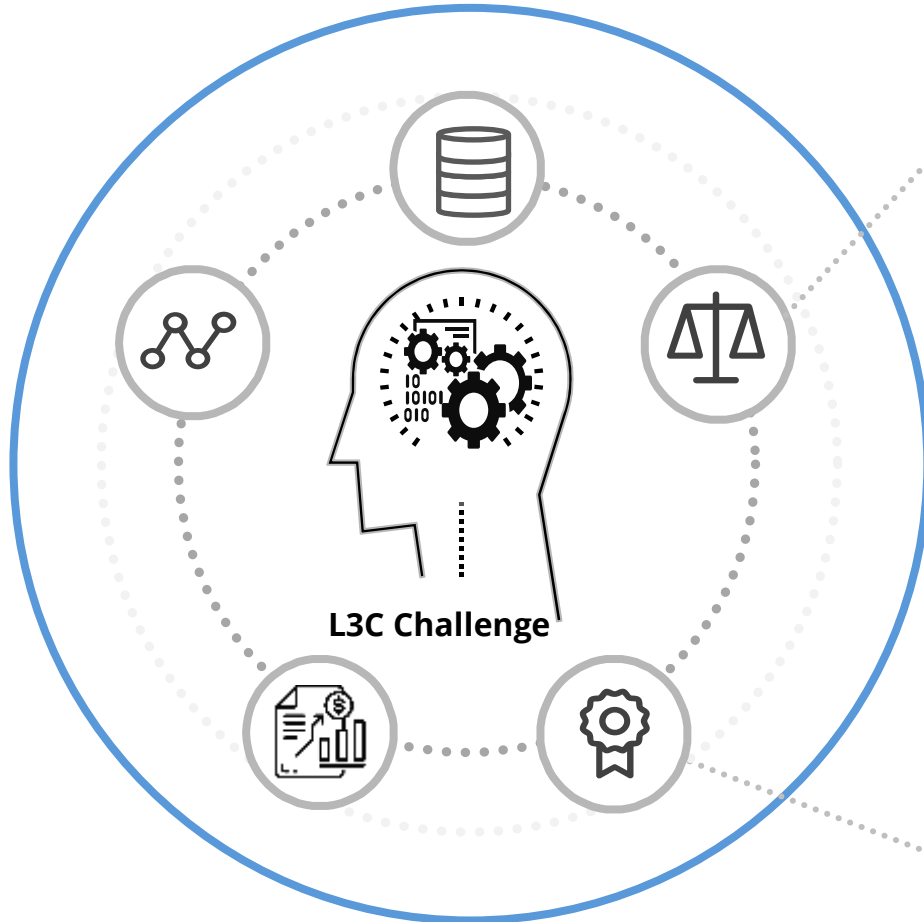
- Supports creative data-driven solutions
- Data-driven advancements to understand the risks of developing PASC/Long COVID



## National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)

- Leveraging N3C enclave
- AI-based prognostics for predicting risk of developing PASC/Long COVID

# L3C Challenge Objective



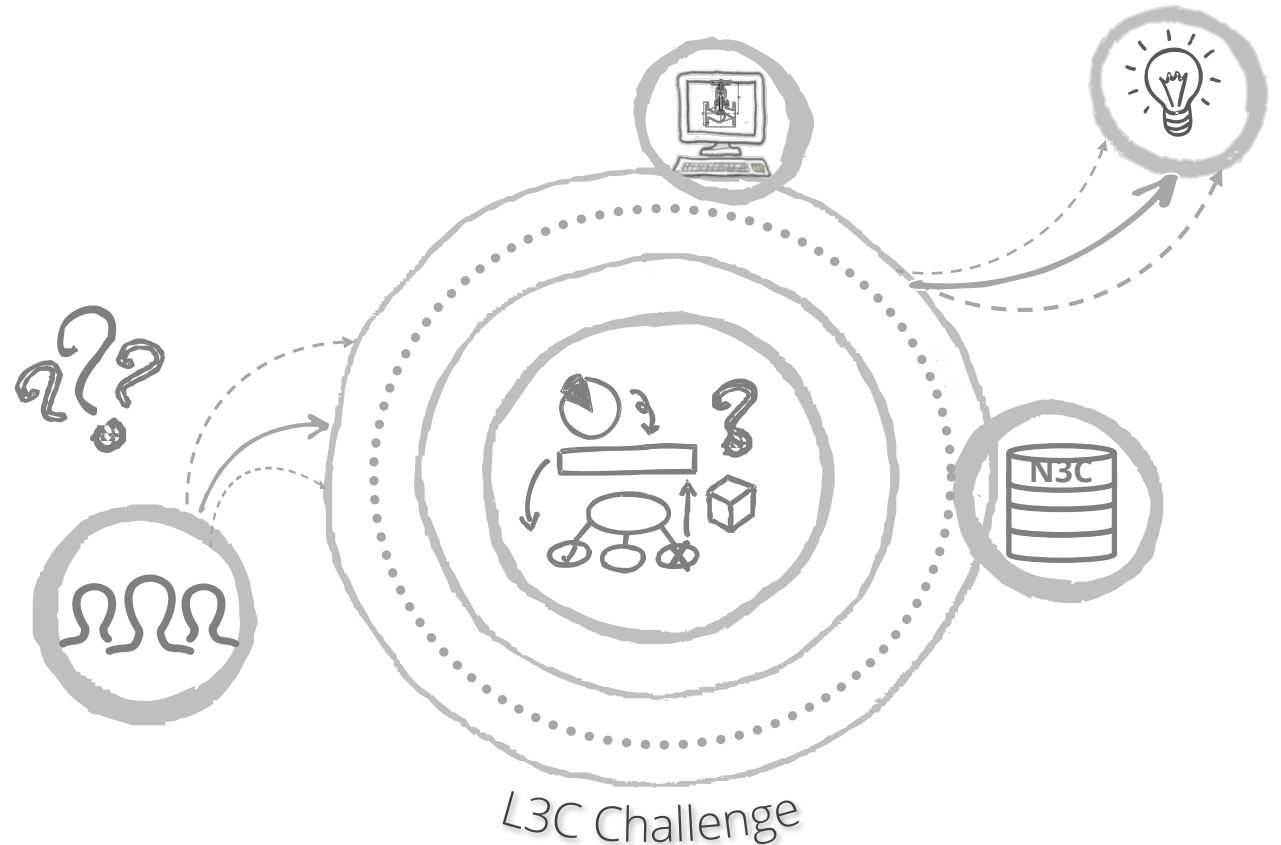
- Identify patients likely to develop PASC/Long COVID
- Develop AI/ML model
- Open-source tools
- Using structured medical records
- Evaluate models using patients with ICD-10 code U09.9



# L3C Challenge Question

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If infected with SARS-CoV-2, who is more susceptible to developing PASC/Long COVID?

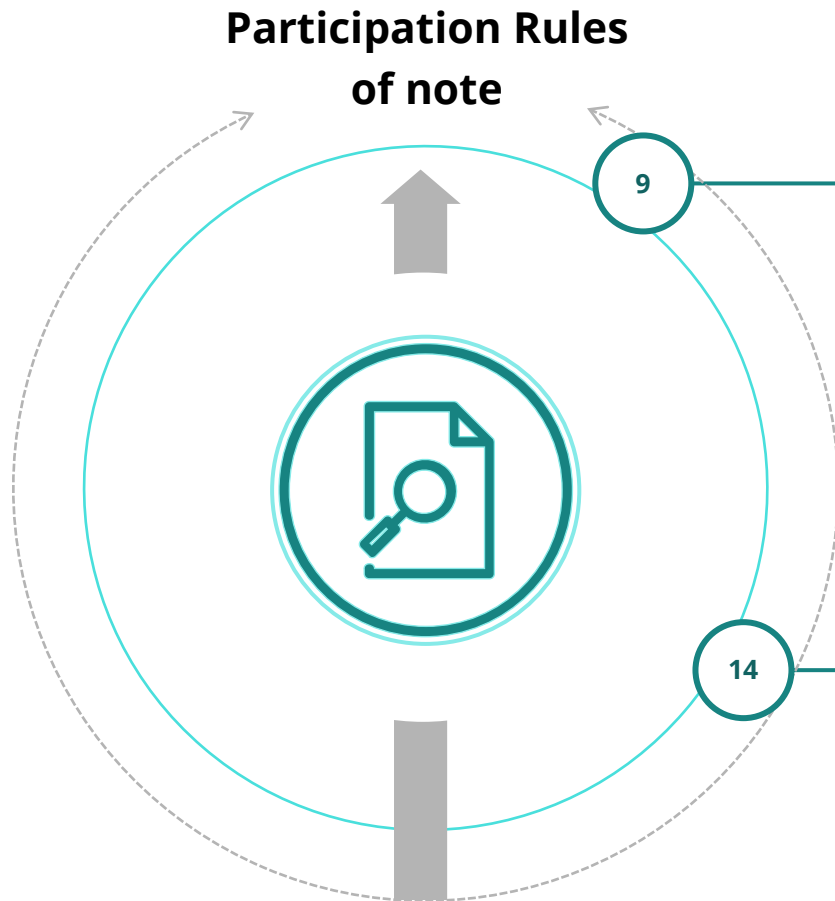


# L3C Challenge Eligibility Rules

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- Shall have **registered to participate in the Challenge under the rules** promulgated by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as published in this announcement;
  - Shall have **complied with all the requirements** set forth in this announcement;
  - In the case of a private entity, **shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States**, and **in the case of an individual**, whether participating singly or in a group, **shall be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States**. However, non-U.S. citizens and non-permanent residents can participate as a member of a team that otherwise satisfies the eligibility criteria. **Non-U.S. citizens and non-permanent residents are not eligible to win a monetary prize** (in whole or in part). Their participation as part of a winning team, if applicable, may be recognized when the results are announced.
  - Shall **not be a federal entity or federal employee acting within the scope of their employment**;
  - Shall **not be an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS, or any other component of HHS) acting in their personal capacity;
  - Who is **employed by a federal agency** or entity other than HHS (or any component of HHS), **should consult with an agency ethics official** to determine whether the federal ethics rules will limit or prohibit the acceptance of a prize under this Challenge;
  - Shall **not be a judge of the Challenge, or any other party involved with the design, production, execution, or distribution** of the Challenge or the immediate family of such a party (i.e., spouse, parent, step-parent, child, or step-child).
  - Shall be **18 years of age or older** at the time of submission.
-

# L3C Challenge Participation Rules



## Participation Rules of note

### Open-Source Platform

- By participating in this Challenge, each Participant (whether an individual, group of individuals, or entity) selected to win a prize under this Challenge agrees to deposit their code for the models submitted to an open-source platform (e.g., GitHub)
- The code will be made available to the public under an open-source license
- Payment of the prize is contingent upon successful deposit of the code.
- As part of the submission requirement, each participant will submit their codes and a report summarizing their methods
- Sage will facilitate loading to open-source platform

### N3C Enclave

- N3C Data Policies for Publication [Governance Policies](#) | N3C ([cd2h.org](https://cd2h.org))
- To access data within the N3C Data Enclave, an authorized institutional official from the Participant's home institution must sign the N3C Data Enclave Institutional Data Use Agreement (DUA) and agree to the terms of service outlined by NCATS and N3C
- Participants must agree and abide by N3C Data User Code of Conduct, Challenge Data Use Request, and complete required trainings.

**Read Complete Rules - <https://www.challenge.gov/?challenge=l3c&tab=rules>  
(Questions? Email [RADxLongCOVIDChallengeAdmin@synapse.org](mailto:RADxLongCOVIDChallengeAdmin@synapse.org))**

# N3C Data Details



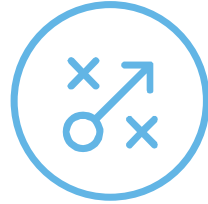
## The data represents over 15 million patients

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> 5.8 million COVID positive patients

> 17.5 billion rows of data

Data is de-identified to protect identifying patients



## The dataset includes information such as

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- Demographics
- Symptoms
- lab test results
- Procedures
- Medications
- Medical conditions
- Physical measurements



## Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP)

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OMOP v 5.3 Common Data Model will be used for data schema and storage

<https://ohdsi.github.io/CommonDataModel/cdm53.html>



## Diagnostic ICD-10 code U09.9 - Post COVID-19 Condition

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U09.9 is a medical classification listed by WHO

Many patients in N3C are already identified by this code

Others may not have the code but could have undiagnosed PASC/Long COVID

# N3C – L3C Challenge Data Access



## Challenge Data

- Not all data available in the N3C enclave will be made available to participants in this challenge
- Participants will have access to all Long COVID patients available in a chosen data release version as well as randomly selected patients who have tested positive for COVID but have not been officially diagnosed with U09.9
- The data will represent a 1:4 ratio of Long COVID patients : non-Long COVID patients. This ratio may increase as the challenge goes on and teams develop more efficient workflows



## Uncensored Training Data

All data that is available as of the chosen release version for the previously described challenge data



## Censored Training Data

The challenge data will be censored, removing all data 4 weeks after the initial covid index date of the patients

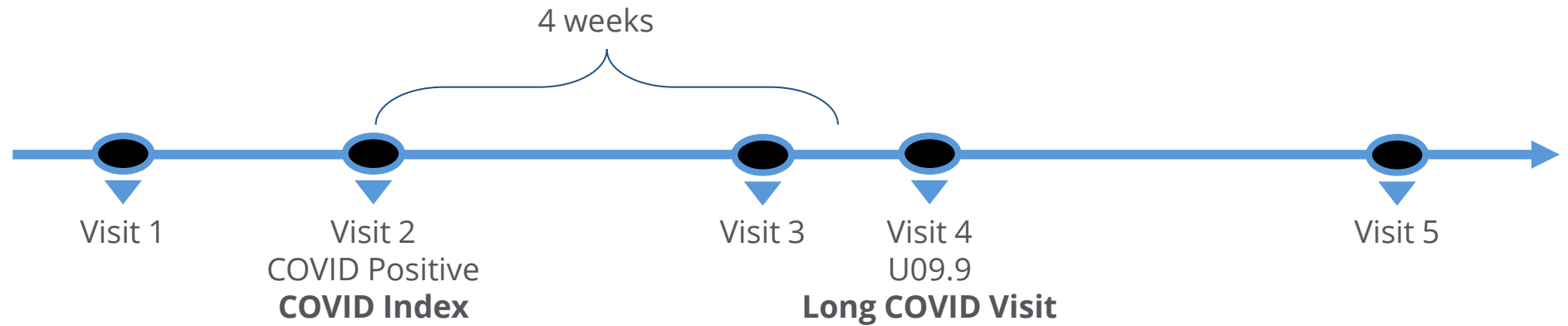


## Censored Testing Data

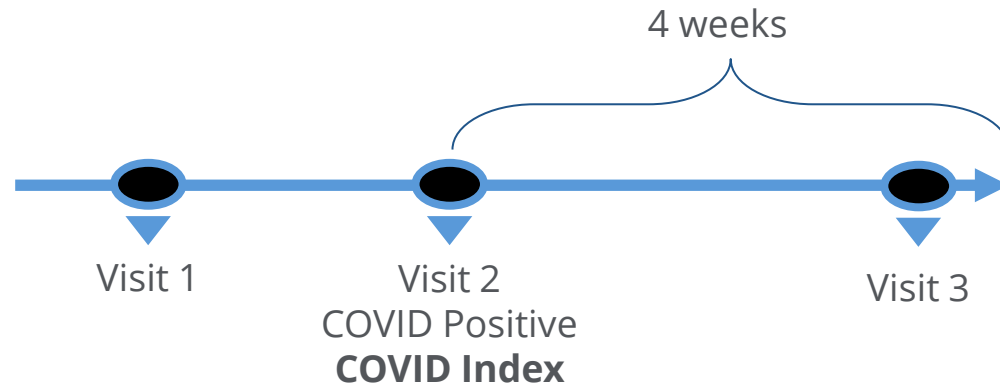
- The challenge data will be censored, removing all data 4 weeks after the initial covid index date of the patients
- This testing data will be a placeholder during the challenge and will be replaced with the new testing data once the model development phase is over

# Long COVID Cohort Challenge Data

Uncensored  
Data



Censored  
Training/Testing  
Data



# Challenge Registration

## Register in Synapse

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.synapse.org/#!Synapse:syn33576900/wiki/618454>. The browser's address bar and taskbar are visible at the top. On the left side, there is a dark blue sidebar with a search icon and a question mark icon. The main content area is white and contains the following elements:

- Left Sidebar:** A list of navigation items under the heading "NIH Long COVID Computational Challenge":
  - Challenge Question
  - Challenge Data
  - How to Participate** (expanded)
    - Participants and Teams
    - Challenge Rules
    - Challenge Resources
    - Challenge Presentations
- Top Right:** A button labeled "View Wiki Source".
- Section Header:** "How to Participate" followed by "Register in Synapse".
- Step 1: Create a Synapse Account**

Create an account on [Synapse.org](https://www.synapse.org). Make sure your account information (Name and institution) match the information on your N3C enclave account (see below).
- Step 2: Register**

Register for the challenge using the registration button. All members of a team, not just the team captain, need to click the registration button below.

[Click Here to Register](#)

There are 2 **registered participants**.  
Join them now!
- Step 3: Create and Register a Team**

Create a team and invite your team members to join you. Register your team with the button below. Learn more about how to [create a team](#). By default, the participant who creates a team is the "Team Captain" and has the ability to [invite and remove members](#). All team members will need a Synapse account so that they can login and accept the team invitation.

[Register your Team](#)

Even if you are a single participant, you will need to be on a registered team to participate.

Join an Existing Team

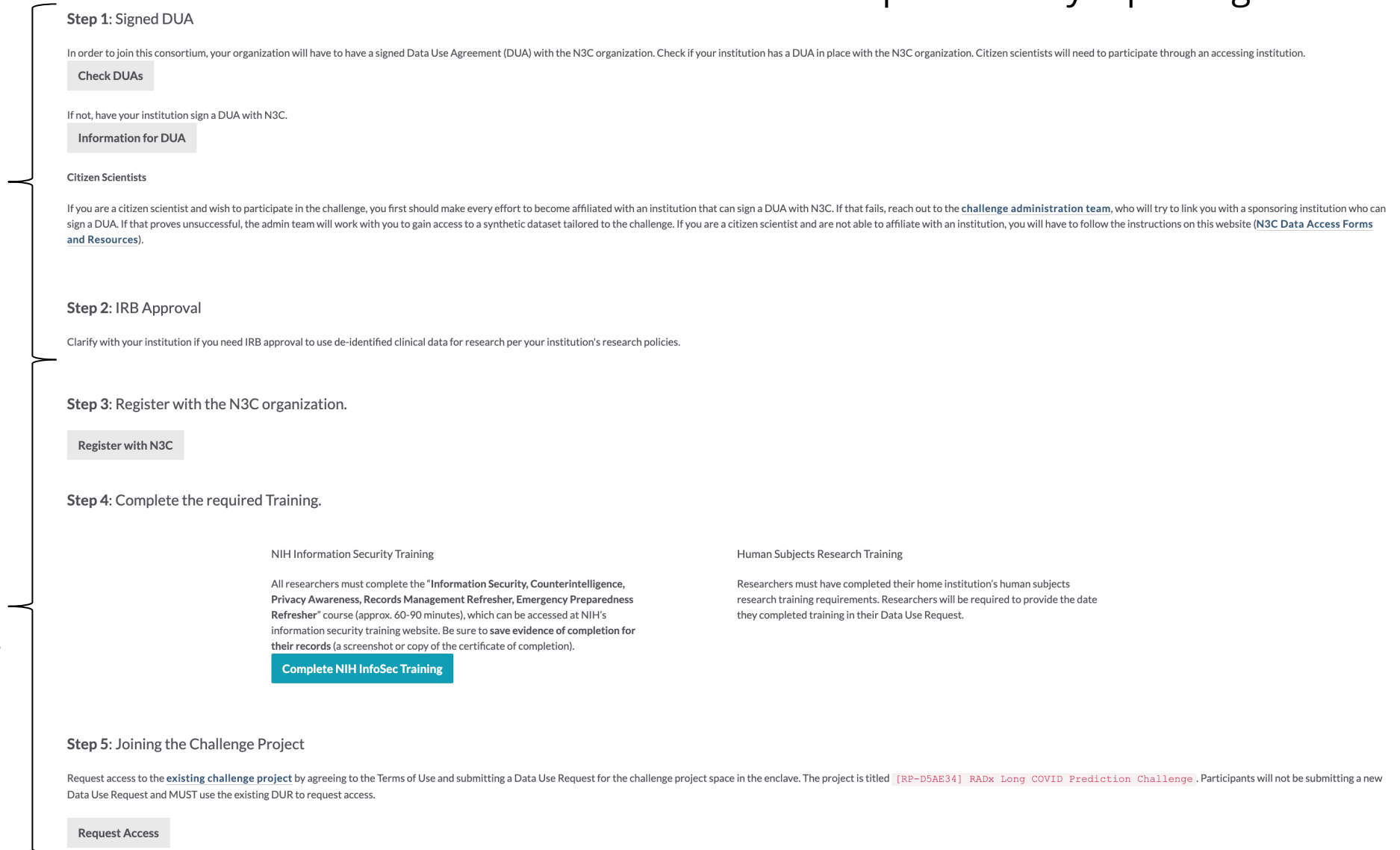
# Challenge Registration

Register in N3C

<https://www.synapse.org/L3C>

May take **multiple weeks** to complete. DUAs and IRBs can take a while for institutions to process.

Has a much faster turnaround. About a **one week** turnaround.





# Possible Onboarding Timeline

## Onboarding/Learning Curve Timeline



IRB and DUA paperwork submission	September 21, 2022
Completed N3C Onboarding	October 21, 2022
Tutorials/Learning Curve Completed	November 21, 2022
Judging Period Begins	December 16, 2022

# Challenge Registration

Join the Existing DUR

National Covid Cohort Collective  
Request to Join Existing DUR



National  
COVID  
Cohort  
Collaborative



Request to join as a Collaborator

### Join an Existing Data Use Request

#### Collaborator Information

Name [timothy.bergquist@sagebase.org](mailto:timothy.bergquist@sagebase.org)

Email

Institution Sage Bionetworks

#### DUR Information

*This information was submitted by the Lead Investigator for the project.*

#### Project Title

RADx Long COVID Prediction Challenge

#### Research Project Abstract

The emergence of post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 (PASC) is presenting serious and ongoing impact on people's health and the American health care system. While details on the prevalence, causes, treatment and consequences of PASC are actively being researched, growing evidence suggests that more than half of COVID-19 survivors experience at least one symptom of PASC at six months after recovery of the acute illness. Symptoms of fatigue, cognitive impairment, shortness of breath, and cardiac damage, among others, have been observed in patients who had only mild initial COVID-19 disease. Advancements in the software tools using Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) approaches may enable the potential for providing clinical decision support on candidate prognostic factors and assessments of a patient's risk to developing PASC. To that end, we are conducting a community challenge within the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)

7 issues identified

Submit

# Project Space

Data Catalog
Projects
Shared with you

- Files
- Autosaved
- Project Catalog
- References
- Trash

## [RP-D5AE34] RADx Long COVID Prediction Challenge

The emergence of post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 (PASC) is presenting serious and ongoing impact on people's health and the American health care system. While details on the ...

NAME ^	LAST UPDATED	TAGS
Challenge Data	Wed, Aug 10, 2022, 9:48:14 AM	
Organizers	Tue, Jul 26, 2022, 4:04:10 PM	
Resources	Thu, Aug 11, 2022, 10:44:12 AM	
Teams	Wed, Aug 10, 2022, 10:14:53 AM	

[RP-D5AE34] RADx Long COVID Prediction C... Details

The emergence of post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 (PASC) is presenting serious and ongoing impact on people's health and the American health care system. While details on the prevalence, causes, treatment and consequences of PASC are actively being researched, growing evidence suggests that more than half of COVID-19 survivors experience at least one symptom of PASC at six months after recovery of the acute illness. Symptoms of fatigue, cognitive impairment, shortness of breath, and cardiac damage, among others, have been observed in patients who had only mild initial COVID-19 disease. Advancements in the software tools using Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) approaches may enable the potential for providing clinical decision support on candidate prognostic factors and assessments of a patient's risk to developing PASC.

To that end, we are conducting a community challenge within the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) enclave sponsored by the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative to engage with the machine learning community to develop risk prediction models for identifying COVID patients who are at risk of developing long COVID. We will establish a gold standard true positive dataset against which risk prediction models will be benchmarked. Using N3C data, challenge organizers will identify viable challenge questions focused on predicting long COVID and the associated risks. Participants in this challenge will build models on a training dataset established by the challenge organizers. Those trained models will then be tested on a holdout set to establish initial model accuracy. These trained models will be evaluated against a battery of accuracy and generalizability tests including longitudinal generalizability, cross-site generalizability, hold-out dataset accuracy, and prospective evaluations.

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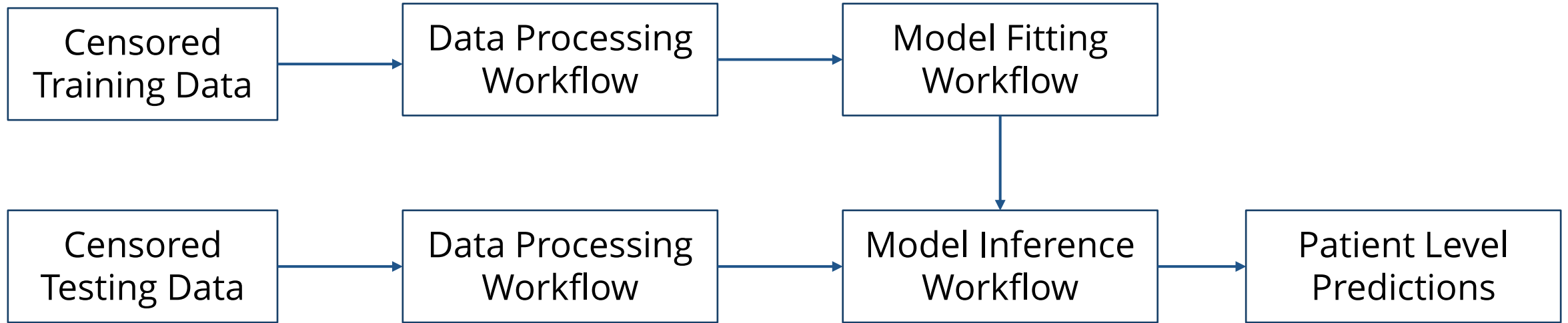
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# Challenge Submission

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Example Code is available in the “Resources” folder.

We will be going through this workflow in an upcoming orientation.

# Evaluation Metrics

An example of the metrics used to evaluate the models will include...



## Quantitative Metrics

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- Calibration metrics (Mean error, Brier score, etc.)
- Area Under the Precision Recall Curve
- Area Under the Receiver Operator Curve
- Precision and Recall



## Qualitative Metrics

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### Utility

- Feature Interpretability and Relevance
- Timeliness of Predictions
- Context Utility
- Likelihood of Implementation

### Reproducibility

- Technical Reproducibility
- Prediction Reproducibility
- Documentation Reproducibility
- Method Clarity

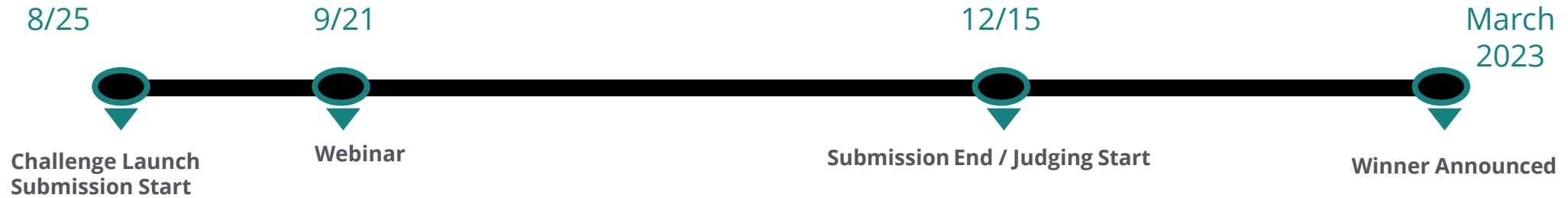
# Prizes

The total prize purse for this challenge is up to \$500,000



Up to **5** projects may be selected for an **honorable mention** prize at the sole discretion of the challenge managers. Honorable mention prize winners will receive an **equal share** of the Honorable Mention prize pool.

# Challenge Timeline



Challenge Launch	August 25, 2022
Challenge Webinar	September 21, 2022, 3:00 PM Eastern Time
Submission Period	August 25 - December 15, 2022
Judging Period	December 16, 2022 – February 15, 2023
Winner Announced	March 2023

# Additional Learning Opportunities

## Tutorials and Orientations

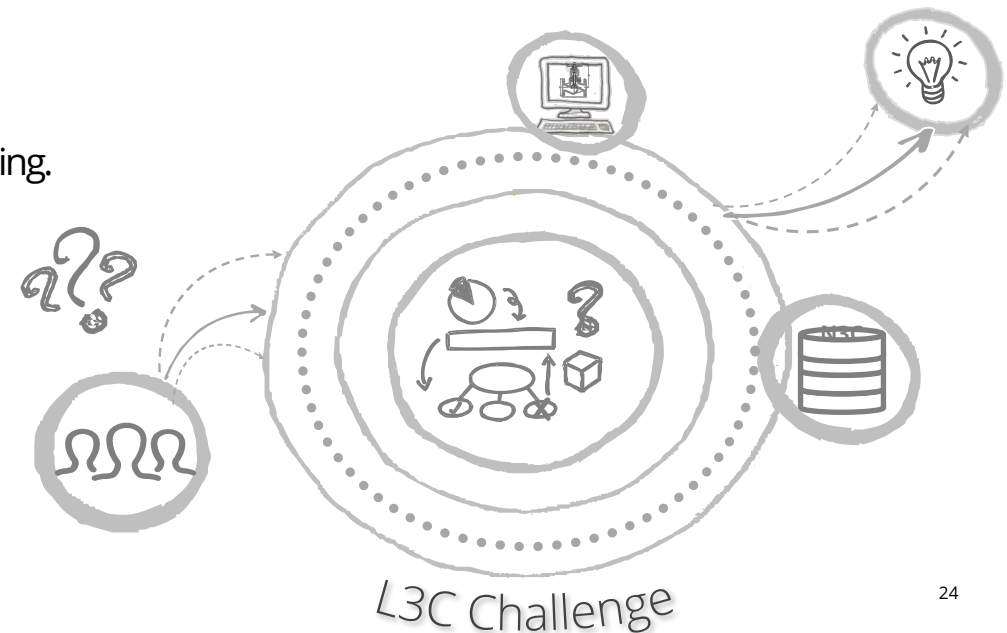
- Over the next few weeks, we will be hosting tutorials detailing techniques and methods for building efficient models, for working with the N3C data, for understanding the caveats of the N3C data, and other topics.
- Details on time and dates will be announced soon. These sessions will also be recorded and made available.

## Resources

There are additional documents in the **Resources** folder of the enclave project that have *links to tutorials, challenge instructions, and submission examples* that you should look through.

## Office Hours

- We will also be hosting regular office hours if you'd like to swing by for a more informal setting.
- **Thursdays at 10am PST, starting on September 29<sup>th</sup>**
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlsceqtrjoqHNTfFgPUP0etb4saRxEQqIMY>





# Questions & Answers

## Long COVID Computational Challenge



National Institutes of Health  
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