

Pathoplexus Executive Board Meeting

Agenda & Notes Summary

11 April 2025 🌸

Attending:

Executive Board:

- Emma Hodcroft
- Alli Black
- Anderson Brito
- George Githinji

Agenda:

- The meeting opened by considering a letter from the community, making a request to the Executive Board (EB) to add RSV-A, RSV-B, and HMPV to Pathoplexus.
 - The letter was signed by members of the community from a global distribution, all of whom supported the addition. The EB considered the signatories and comments made.
 - The EB additionally discussed the technical status of adding these pathogens; Emma reported that from feedback of the development team there were no specific technical concerns to adding these, and that all 3 already have Nextclade datasets
 - The EB additionally touched on issues of simplifying the Pathoplexus interface in the future: e.g. so that users could upload any RSV sequence and have it classified into A and B. There are plans in the works to try and move towards such an interface (also for viewing sequences).
 - The EB voted (4/4) in favour of adding RSV-A, RSV-B, and HPMV to Pathoplexus.
- The EB then heard about a new funding opportunity that members would like to apply for on behalf of Pathoplexus, which would require a letter from the EB
 - The proposal would involve a university, Pathoplexus, and an LMIC partner (all outlined to the EB), with the proposal involving support for students, developers, training, and travel costs.
 - The EB expressed that they would like to be kept up to date with the proposal, but would in theory be happy to support the proposal with a letter
- The EB then considered a point discussed at the recent Scientific Advisory Board meeting (SAB) around the ease of adding new pathogens to Pathoplexus.

- Currently a [resolution passed by the EB in September 2024](#) requires that adding a new pathogen requires community support in the form of a letter. However, obtaining such letters and getting signatures has been more challenging than anticipated, in particular due to the effort required to coordinate a letter (when community members are already busy) and uncertainty from community members about whether they have ‘authority’ to sign such a letter (a misinterpretation of the status of the letter, which is just a simple expression of support)
 - The EB discussed these concerns, maintaining that while community support remains important, this could be expressed in ways outside of formal letters
 - In addition, the EB discussed how to add pathogens in urgent circumstances (such as new pathogens or variants) where it may not be wise to wait for community support and/or there may be no ‘community’ (yet)
 - In conclusion to these discussions the EB voted 4/4 to adopt the following resolution which takes precedence over the previous resolution:
 - “When considering the addition of a new pathogen to Pathoplexus, the Executive Board will take into consideration the support of the pathogen community. The Executive Board should evaluate the community support in the context of the pathogen in question, and include this as part of the larger consideration of the addition of a new pathogen.
- In addition, the Executive Board recognises that when novel pathogens or variants emerge and may pose a threat to animals, ecosystems, and/or human health, time may be of the essence to enable rapid sequence sharing. In such situations, the Executive Board may make the decision to add additional pathogens rapidly and without waiting for expressions of support. This should be informed by prioritization by public and/or animal health agencies at local, national, or international levels.”
- Finally the EB began to discuss points about some wording in the DUT that may cause confusion, and could be minorly adjusted. However, the meeting ran out of time and further discussion on this topic will continue asynchronously and/or in additional meetings.