



September 30, 2015

Dr. Andrew Huff
Associate Vice President
EcoHealth Alliance
460 W 34th St. 17th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Dear Dr. Huff,

On behalf of the International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS), I am pleased to express our strong interest in collaborating with you on the NIH funded U01 project entitled "Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Development of Software Tools and Methods for Biomedical Big Data in Targeted Areas of High Need". The Mantle software platform offers tremendous promise for biosurveillance and disease forecasting abilities. We believe you have built an excellent team with Dr. Peter Daszak and other EcoHealth Alliance staff to further develop the Mantle platform.

Mantle aligns with ISDS' dedication to the improvement of population health by advancing the science and practice of disease surveillance. To assist with this project, we will provide expertise in the field of One Health biosurveillance. ISDS' membership represents professional and academic subject matter experts in the fields of public health surveillance, clinical practice, health informatics, health policy, and other areas related to national and global health surveillance. ISDS works toward a vision of timely, effective, and coordinated disease prevention and response among a skilled public health workforce through programs that position us at the vanguard of the disease surveillance field.

We will contribute valuable insight into the development of Mantle's biosurveillance tools, models, and disease forecasting capabilities. Our involvement in the biosurveillance community will guide the development of Mantle to maximize usability and meet current and future scientific demand. We believe that by engaging end-users in the development process from the outset, there is a much greater chance that the software platform is practical and has real utility to the public health surveillance professional.

ISDS will provide all necessary consultation and support to Dr. Huff and his team to accomplish the development of Mantle to further our common missions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Laura C. Streichert".

Laura C. Streichert, PhD, MPH
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