



March 2026 WORKING GROUP MEETING AGENDA: Databases and Coding

Meeting details	
Location	Melia Palma Marina Hotel + MS Teams
Meeting date	19.03.2026
Meeting time	16:30
Chair(s)	Jennifer Quint
Attendees	Janne Estill Zijun Wang Reshed Abohalaka Lies Lanousse Joan S Soriano Mohsen Sadatsafavi Katia Verhamme Valeria Perugini
Objectives	
1	Welcome and Introduction
2	Update on Project Ideas
3	Final Remarks and OAB
Items	
Welcome and Introduction	Jenni opened the meeting by welcoming all participants, including those attending online, with the session supported and facilitated by Valeria.
Update on Project Ideas	Position paper: Choosing the right respiratory database for the right research question Valeria provided an overview of the draft, outlining its aim to develop a practical framework to guide researchers in selecting and evaluating respiratory databases. She emphasised that the intention is not to duplicate existing initiatives, but rather to complement current tools and provide clear, accessible guidance, as many



	<p>researchers still find database selection challenging and often underestimate its importance in study design and interpretation.</p> <p>The group agreed on the relevance of the initiative and the need for such guidance. Katia highlighted the importance of clearly positioning the paper within the broader landscape of existing work, noting that several initiatives and tools already exist to support database selection and data quality assessment. She emphasised that the manuscript should explicitly acknowledge these efforts and demonstrate awareness of ongoing activities, to strengthen its credibility and avoid the perception of duplication. Valeria agreed with this perspective, reiterating that the aim is to build on and complement what is already available, rather than recreate it.</p> <p>Joan raised important considerations regarding publication strategy, suggesting that high-impact journals such as The Lancet Respiratory Medicine would require a very concise format, which may not be compatible with the current scope of the manuscript. He emphasised that expanding the paper could reduce the likelihood of acceptance in top-tier journals, and highlighted the importance of aligning the content with the requirements of the target journal from the outset. Following this discussion, there was agreement within the group to aim for submission to the European Respiratory Journal (ERJ), which offers a more suitable format for the current draft while still ensuring strong visibility and impact. Jenni, although joining remotely, supported moving forward efficiently and emphasised the importance of consolidating feedback to enable timely submission.</p> <p>Overall, there was consensus on the value of the position paper and its potential impact, alongside the need to refine its scope, ensure alignment with existing initiatives, and proceed with a clear publication strategy.</p>
Final Remarks/AOB	<p>A broader strategic discussion was raised regarding the role of the Databases WG within REG. Jenni suggested whether it might be more effective to integrate database expertise across other working groups, rather than maintaining a standalone group, in order to maximise impact and better support ongoing studies. This prompted discussion among members. Katia reflected that closer collaboration across working groups would be valuable, particularly to ensure that expertise in database selection, coding, and phenotyping is embedded within study design and execution.</p> <p>Valeria acknowledged this perspective and agreed on the importance of strengthening cross-working group collaboration. However, she noted that maintaining a dedicated Databases WG remains important, given the specialised expertise required. It was suggested that the group should play a more active and integrative role, contributing across REG projects while continuing its own initiatives.</p> <p>It was agreed that the immediate priority remains the finalisation and submission of the position paper, after which the structure and role of the WG can be revisited. Members also highlighted the need for increased activity and engagement moving forward.</p>