2024 DevCon Review

OHDSI Community Call
May 7, 2024 • 11 am ET
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May 14: 10-Minute Tutorials

Martí Català Sabaté
Medical Statistician/Data Scientist
University of Oxford

Kim López Güell
Dphil Student
University of Oxford

Maarten van Kessel
Software Developer
Erasmus MC

Louisa Smith
Assistant Professor
Northeastern University

Drug Utilization
Cohort Survival
Treatment Patterns
All of Us Research
Three Stages of The Journey

Where Have We Been?
Where Are We Now?
Where Are We Going?

The Health Equity Explorer: An open-source resource for distributed health equity visualization and research across common data models

William G. Adams¹; Sarah Gasman²; Ariel L. Beccia³; and Liza Fuentes⁴

¹Department of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA; ²Boston University’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Chobanian & Angell School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA; ³Boston Children’s Hospital and Department of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA; ⁴Health Equity Accelerator, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA

Abstract

Introduction: There is an urgent need to address pervasive inequities in health and healthcare in the USA. Many areas of health equity are well known, but there remain important unexplored areas, and for many populations in the USA, accessing data to visualize and monitor health equity is difficult. Methods: We describe the development and evaluation of an open-source R-Shiny application, the "Health Equity Explorer (HEE)," designed to enable users to explore health equity data in a way that can be easily shared within and across common data models (CDMs). Results: We have developed a novel, scalable information tool to explore a wide variety of drivers of health, including patient-reported Social Determinants of Health (SDHs), using data in an OMOP CDM research data repository in a way that can be easily shared. We describe our development process, data schema, potential use cases, and pilot data for 705,686 people who attended our health system at least once since 2016. For this group, 99.382 unique observations for questions related to food and housing security were available for 324,630 patients (at least one answer for all 86% of patients) with 65,152 (20.1% of patients with at least one visit and answer) reporting food or housing insecurity at least once. Conclusions: HEE can be used to support dynamic and interactive explorations that include rich social and environmental data. The tool can support multiple CDMs and has the potential to support distributed health equity research and intervention on a national scale.
OHDSI Shoutouts!


Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines to prevent long-COVID data from Norway

The recent study conducted by the team mentioned above has shown that COVID-19 vaccines consistently prevent long COVID symptoms in adults, with meta-analysis-calculated effectiveness rates ranging from 85.6% in women (95% CI 41.4-90.0%) to 60.0% in men (95% CI 22.1-80.0%), and 91.8% (95% CI 74.8-95.6%) in COVID-19-naïve individuals. The vaccine was also effective in preventing post-COVID thromboembolic and cardiovascular complications, as evidenced by recent published data in The Lancet. It is associated with reduced mortality and reduced hospital admissions.

With the rise of the Rhinovirus Clinical Trials Partnership (RCTP) common data model (CDM), all our evidence was collected across 13 European countries (Europe, Spain, and the UK) without transferring patient data, using federated analysis similar to those used by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). A digital health analysis enabled us to:

- Show further expand scalability and expert results from applying the same analysis to the Norwegian National Health Registry at University of Oslo, covering the entire Norwegian population of approximately 5.4 million inhabitants. Data from no registries covering primary and secondary care, hospitalizations, vaccinations, pharmacological treatments, prescriptions, and socioeconomic data were required to map the OBERD (ODIN). Reproducing previous methods in the Norwegian vaccine cohort, we enriched our research with the OBERD (ODIN) and primary care data, and found that COVID-19 vaccines were effective in preventing long COVID symptoms in Norway, reducing the risk of developing long COVID symptoms among study cohorts. This adds to our growing understanding of COVID-19 vaccines' effectiveness and potential side effects.

An article by the team of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology published in The Lancet Global Health discusses the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in preventing long COVID, with no record of any efficacy loss 180 days after COVID-19 vaccination, and with no evidence of increased cardiovascular or thromboembolic events compared to the general population. The study highlights the importance of continued monitoring and research to ensure the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

For more information, please visit www.ohdsi.org and follow @OHDSI.
Three Stages of The Journey

Where Have We Been?
Where Are We Now?
Where Are We Going?
# Upcoming Workgroup Calls

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<td>9 am</td>
<td>Patient-Level Prediction</td>
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<td>Natural Language Processing</td>
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<td>Joint Vulcan/OHDSI Meeting</td>
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<td>Strategus HADES Subgroup</td>
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<td>Early-Stage Researchers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>OMOP CDM Oncology Genomic Subgroup</td>
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Latest OHDSI Newsletter Is Available

On The Journey (May 2024)

CDM and Thems conventions and open-source software were both community focuses during April. Reflections on the April Olympians activity and DevCon can be found in this newsletter, both of which included numerous tutorials to aid in our global research mission. Registration for the 2024 OHDSI Global Symposium has opened, and details on the Collaborator Showcase, tutorials, workshop activities and more are now available. #JoinTheJourney

Community Updates

Where Have We Been?

- The latest edition of the OBER BEST Session Series was held last month. Yung Chen shared a presentation on Read-World Effectiveness of BNT162b2 Against Infection and Severe Diseases in Children and Adolescents: causal inference under misclassification in treatment status. You can find the recording here.
- The April Olympians event brought together community members to identify all currently ratified CDM and THEMIS conventions for every CDM table and field, write complete documentation for each THEMIS convention, establish a repository for THEMIS conventions, update the CDM documentation to link to relevant THEMIS repository entries, and create CDM documentation related to expansion modules efforts around the community. Learn more about this effort later in the newsletter.
- DevCon 2024 served as an opportunity to connect our global open-source community and discuss ways we can collaborate and continue enhancing the future of OHDSI open-source software. The full agenda from the event is posted below, and recordings are available on the event homepage.

DevCon 2024 Brought Together Open-Source Community, Envisioned Potential & Possibilities of OHDSI Software

Where Are We Now?

- Exploration is now open for the 2024 OHDSI Global Symposium, which will be held in person October 25-26 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick, N.J., USA. The event will include day of tutorials, a day of plenaries and the collaborator showcase, and a day of workshop activities. Check out the event homepage for more information.
- Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Maternal Health Data Science Fellowship, which is designed to empower clinical investigators to leverage emerging technologies for improved maternal and neonatal care while reducing morbidity and mortality. The program, which will include the components of career development, practice and networking, will train clinical investigators in observational research methods to enable them to conduct reproducible research and generate real-world evidence. More information, including application details, are now available, and the deadline to apply is May 15, 2024.

OHDSI Open Source Ecosystem

- Software that supports the OMOP CDM
- In the Github OHDSI Organization (Last 10 years)
- 284 Repositories
- 611 Developers
- 1,084 Issue Submitters
- 10,812 Issues Submitted
- 50,575 commits
- 618,428 Files
- 80,361,640 lines of code added
- 45,717,357 lines of code refactored

- Third annual OHDSI DevCon was held April 26, and it served as an opportunity to connect our global open-source community and discuss ways we can collaborate and continue enhancing the future of OHDSI open-source software.
- First session included a series of lightning talks from a developers’ panel, well as a series of development updates from the DARWIN EUR Initiative. Second session agenda included a series of updates on the OHDSI open-source ecosystem, as well as presentations around a tool for machine learning healthcare data mapping and management, and knowledge graphs using tools with example applications in drug surveillance and computational ecotyping.

April Publications


Latest OHDSI Newsletter Is Available

Welcome to OHDSI!

Join Us At The 2024 Symposium
Collaborator Spotlight: Monste Camprubi

One of the major [EHDEN] accomplishments over the last year has been all the activities around evidence generation, with several studyathons organised. These have proven to be very informative activities for the participating data partners, many of whom were sharing standardised data for the first time.

ohdsi.org/spotlight-montse-camprubi
Announcing the Maternal Health Data Science Fellowship

Career Development
- Create evidence from real-world data
- Leverage standard data models for reproducible research
- Build skills on effective network studies

Practice
- Design effective observational research protocols
- Master OHDSI tools
- Write papers & grants

Networking
- Build relationships with mentors & fellow learners
- Coordinate with colleagues in the OHDSI data network, spanning 450 sites worldwide & 960 million unique patients

Want to build your career?
Generate reproducible evidence by leading multi-institutional studies!

Application deadline extended to Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Find out more and apply here by May 15th, 2024!
Top 10 Reasons to Apply for the Maternal Health Data Science Fellowship

1. If you want to make an impact on a major public health issue that’s complex to address
2. If you want to catalyze your career in maternal health research
3. If you want to learn how to conduct inter-institutional network studies
4. If you want to lead a publication on evidence generated via an OHDSI Network Study
5. If you want to be part of an active data network to create evidence at scale
6. If you want to become a leader in the OHDSI Community
7. If you want to learn how to do reproducible research
8. If you want personal career mentoring on publishing, writing grants, and research
9. If you want to learn team science
10. If you want to learn how to create validated cohorts
Symposium on Risks and Opportunities of AI in Pharmaceutical Medicine

2024 Annual Symposium
Generative AI in Medical Research & Drug Development: Hype or Reality?
June 10–11 | Boston, MA
RWE Workshop at AIME24: Call for Submissions!

Workshop: **AI for Reliable and Equitable Real-World Evidence Generation in Medicine**

[https://medicine.utah.edu/dbmi/aime/ai-reliable](https://medicine.utah.edu/dbmi/aime/ai-reliable)

**Organizing Committee**
- Linying Zhang
- Adam Wilcox
- Yves Lussier

**Scientific Program Committee**
- Peter Rijnbeek
- Larry Han
- Xiaoqian Jiang
- Mattia Prosperi
- Xia Ning
- Yifan Peng

**Opening Keynote**
- George Hripcsak

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **May 31, 2024 | Submission Deadline**
- **June 14, 2024 | Notice of Acceptance**
- **July 12, 2024 | Workshop**

**AIME 2024**

22nd International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Medicine
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, July 9-12

Hosted by the University of Utah
Registration is OPEN for the 2024 OHDSI Europe Symposium, which will be held June 1-3 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

June 1 – tutorial/workshop
June 2 – tutorial/workshop
June 3 – main conference
#OHDSI2024 Registration Is Open!

Registration is now OPEN for the 2024 OHDSI Global Symposium, which will be held Oct. 22-24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick, N.J., USA.

**Tuesday:** Tutorials  
**Wednesday:** Plenary/Showcase  
**Thursday:** Workgroup Activities

[ohdsi.org/OHDSI2024](http://ohdsi.org/OHDSI2024)
MONDAY

Jackalope Plus: AI-Enhanced Solution for Mapping Unmappable Concepts

(Denys Kaduk, Marta Vikhrak, Polina Talapova, Eduard Korchmar, Inna Ageeva, Max Ved)

Minimize the need for manual work while accurately capturing all details in the mapping of clinical and observational data.
Tufts Research Data Warehouse (TRDW)
Framework and Implementation of an OMOP-Oriented Data Warehouse Using Databricks
Presenter: Jared Houghtaling

Intro:
The Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) at Tufts Medical Center has established a Tufts Research Data Warehouse (TRDW) that incorporates rich observational health data from Tufts Medicine’s three hospitals, 11 practice physician network, and home health care organization.

- Once fully implemented, the TRDW will facilitate:
  1. Handling of medical data requests in support of clinical research across Tufts’ affiliates
  2. Participation in consortia such as the OHDSI data network
  3. Achievement and utilization of open-source standards
  4. Integration of unstructured and semi-structured resources (e.g., variables, free text images, flowcharts, genomic tumor profiles)

Methods:
The TRDW is hosted on Azure cloud and incorporates a range of commercial services.

- All services are managed via Tenant API and apolitan processes are orchestrated using Pillar API.

- Golang is the first step in the continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) process.

- OMOP is a core component of the travel solutions.

- The OMOP is a combination of languages (Python, R, Java) with a fundamental goal of producing a thorough, documented, highly transparent, and easily maintainable codebase.

- Transformations are handled by OMOP tables, and further sub-authored by data source owners.

- The first OMOP pipeline and free text analysis can require significant computational power, but are well-supported at Azure and independently from the other transformations.

- Once transformed, we organize the various sources in an enterprise architecture, in which independently OMOP instances represent specific sources or combinations thereof.

The TRDW enables broad and deep phenotyping, linking to knowledge graphs for translational research on biological causes of disease, and alignment of health systems’ data definitions and data types with diverse use cases.

Results & Discussion:
- Triad to Northern cohort (NC) needs of defining and implementing a fully operational clinical data warehouse.

Conclusions:
- The TRDW currently serves as a sandbox for security and efficiency utilizing multiple rich-OMOP databases as well as diverse data types. We expect that in the months to come it will enable the construction and implementation of sophisticated statistical models based on multimodal data.

- Much of the work presented here builds on the effort and dedication of so many others in the development of a new approach to data integration - and advocate for open-source development of these powerful tools, and we plan to continue to share our efforts and experiences along the way.

Authors: Jared Houghtaling, Kyrylo Simonov, Kyle Zollo-Venecek, Elina Hadelia, Manlik Kwong, Polina Talapova, Clark Evans, Robert Miller, Andrew E. Williams

Tufts Medical Center - Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI)
Mother-Infant Linked Data: Methodology, Case Studies, and Cohort Development for Investigating Prenatal Exposure and Neonatal Outcomes

(Jill Hardin, Alexis Krumme, David Kern, James Weaver, Clair Blacketer)

BACKGROUND

- Linkages of maternal and infant records from routinely collected healthcare data facilitate research on maternal and child health and safety, and infant health outcomes.

- A recent study developed a mother-infant linkage algorithm using two commercial claims databases.

- We present two case studies demonstrating the use of this linkage and provide a step-by-step methodological guide to develop infant and cohort cohorts.

- For each case study, we provide SQL code to generate the Common Data Model (CDM) (1) and report the step-by-step process of validating the mother-infant linkage using the fixed relationship table in combination with pregnancy cohorts built in ATLAS (accessed at www.ohdsi.org).

METHODS

- Two US observational databases that were transformed into the CDM (Common Data Model, version 5.3) were used (2).

- The ATLAS tool (3) was used to develop cohorts by defining pregnancy episodes and identifying relevant exposures or diagnoses.

- Case study 1 identifiably a cohort of infants affected by neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and NAS-like. In addition, the database contained information on prenatal exposure and fetal distress; thus, we could link maternal and infant outcomes using the ATLAS tool. We also provided a methodological guide to develop infant and cohort cohorts.

- Case study 2 focuses on exposure to aspirin and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for nausea and vomiting during pregnancy. The study demonstrated the association of maternal use of aspirin and/or NSAIDs with perinatal outcomes, including increased rates of birth defects, spontaneous abortion, and increased risk of stillbirth.
#OHDSISocialShowcase This Week

**THURSDAY**

Integrating ATLAS Cohorts with DICOM Images and ECG Waveforms to Enrich Real-World Evidence Research

(Boudewijn Aasman, Selvin Soby, Sudhakar Veeraraghavan, Erin M. Henninger, Chandra has Nelapatla, Manuel Wahlle, Adil Ahmed, Pavel Goriacko, Parsa Mirhaji)
Real-world Effectiveness of BNT162b2 in Children and Adolescents in Preventing Infection and Severe Diseases with SARS-CoV-2 During the Delta and Omicron Periods

(Qiong Wu, Jiayi Tong, Bingyu Zhang, Dazheng Zhang, Jie Xu, Yishan Shen, Lu Li, L. Charles Bailey, Jiang Bian, Dimitri A. Christakis, Megan L. Fitzgerald, Kathryn Hirabayashi, Ravi Jhaveri, Alka Khaitan, Tianchen Lyu, Suchitra Rao, Hanieh Razzaghi, Hayden T. Schwenk, Fei Wang, Margot I. Witvliet, Eric J. Tchetgen, Jeffrey S. Morris, Christopher B. Forrest, and Yong Chen)

Background

- Clinical inquiry: Evaluating the efficacy of BNT162b2 within the U.S. pediatric population
- Knowledge gaps: Existing RCTs were conducted up to the prevalence of the Delta variant
- Intervention duration: Research on the Omicron variant has primarily focused on short-term vaccine effects.
- Study objective: Few existing studies covered both hospitalised patients and those with mild or asymptomatic infections.

Methodological Challenges:

- Target trial evaluation: wing electronic health record (EHR) data
- Extensive vaccination status documentation within U.S. health systems

Methods

- Enrol three target trials to investigate the effectiveness of the BNT162b2 vaccine in preventing infection with various strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in children and adolescents in U.S.
- Target trial 1 (Delta study in adolescents): adolescents aged 12-20 years during the period when the Delta variant was prevalent from July 1, 2021, to November 30, 2021.
- Target trial 2 (Omicron study in children): children aged 5 to 11 years during the period when the Omicron variant was prevalent from January 1, 2022, to November 30, 2022.
- Target trial 3 (Omicron study in adolescents): adolescents aged 12-20 years during the period when the Omicron variant was prevalent from January 1, 2022, to November 30, 2022.

- A robustified trial evaluation pipeline to account for incomplete vaccine records

Results

- Data source: EHR data from PEDSnet
- Eligibility criteria:
  - In the age group at the study start
  - No previous COVID-19 vaccination
  - No previous SARS-CoV-2 infection
  - User of the healthcare system of PEDSnet (i.e., having a primary care visit in the past 18 months)

- Intervention: BNT162b2 vaccine vs. no receipt of any type of COVID-19 vaccine
- Outcome: documented SARS-CoV-2 infection (i.e., virus test/diagnosis), severity of COVID-19 infections, ICU admission with COVID-19

- Confounding variables: demographic factors, clinical factors, and healthcare utilization factors (including the number of negative COVID-19 tests prior to the cohort entry).

Conclusions

- The research suggests a moderate effectiveness of the BNT162b2 vaccine for preventing infection and severe diseases of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant and high effectiveness against the Delta variant based on a national pediatric cohort in the U.S.
- The novel trial evaluation pipeline offers a new approach for assessing real-world effectiveness with incomplete vaccine records.

Contact: qiong.wu@pennmedicine.upenn.edu and ychen123@pennmedicine.upenn.edu
Opening: PhD Student, Erasmus MC

PhD student in Health Data Science

Published: 30 Apr  
Deadline: 13 May  
Location: Rotterdam

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The department of Medical Informatics is looking for a PhD student to work on cutting-edge health AI and data science topics. This research will be performed in close collaboration with the Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI) initiative, which is a global, multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary collaborative to bring out the value of health data through large-scale analytics (www.ohdsi.org) which develop frameworks to generate reliable real-world evidence.

As a PhD student, you will be responsible for the research on using federated data networks to improve best practices around the development and validation of prediction models. You will lead and contribute to projects conducting methodological research within the field of machine learning in healthcare. Research will be performed in clinical settings, feature engineering methods, deep-learning, and other advanced machine-learning methods to support personalized medicine. The research will focus on using large-scale federated data networks made possible by the standardization of health data to the OMOP Common Data Model. Impact assessments of these new approaches on patient care are part of the research agenda.
Openings: Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins Univ.

PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM
Co-Directors: Caleb Alexander, MD, MS and Jodi Segal, MD, MPH

The Pharmacoepidemiology Training Program at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (BSPH) is currently seeking to support postdoctoral fellows. All supported trainees work with core faculty on existing or newly developed research projects on pharmacoepidemiology, so as to optimize the safe and effective use of medicines to treat heart, lung and blood diseases in the United States.

Deadline for applications: rolling
Opening: Junior Research Software Engineer, Tufts

INFORMATICS

Overview
We participate in development of a robust institutional informatics infrastructure, enabling research teams to maintain their focus on scientific discovery and analyses rather than on data wrangling. Our infrastructure and support systems are dynamic, to keep pace with the changing and interdependent fields of health informatics, bioinformatics, statistics, and data science; expandable, to accommodate new data types and analytic methods; and scalable, to support efficient and methodologically rigorous multisite/institution research. These defining traits allow us to elucidate novel methods and operational principles, harmonize datasets, and create pipelines for data sharing and analytics.
Opening: Research Assistant, University of Oxford

Job Details

Research Assistant in Health Data Sciences
Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences, Botnar Research Centre, Windmill Road, Oxford, OX3 7LD

We have an exciting opportunity for a Research Assistant in Health Data Sciences to join the Pharmaco- and Device epidemiology research group led by Professor Daniel Porto-Alhambra at the Botnar Research Centre, NOORMS, University of Oxford. The NOORMS Pharmaco- and Device epidemiology research group is involved in a number of national and international studies exploring the conditions of use ( adherence, compliance, off and on-label use) of a number of licensed drugs, devices, and vaccines for the prevention and treatment of human disease in ‘real world’ (routine practice) conditions.

As a Research Assistant in Health Data Sciences you will contribute to the programming of analytical pipelines for the analysis of routinely collected data mapped to the OMOP Common Data Model. You will analyse real world data to address regulatory questions related to the prevalence/incidence of disease, use of medicines/vaccines, and the risks or benefits of medicines/vaccines or devices. You will prepare analytical packages to run a number of pre-specified analyses, contribute to wider project planning, including ideas for new research projects and gather, analyse, and present scientific data from a variety of sources.

You will hold a relevant BA or MSc degree in Mathematics, Engineering, or a related field. Knowledge of medical statistics and experience analysing large datasets, experience in biostatistics and/or health data sciences and experience in the programming of R packages are essential. Experience in propensity scores, overlap weighting, inverse probability weighting and/or similar methods, expertise in pharmaco or vaccine epidemiology and experience of working with electronic medical records routinely collected data are desirable.

This is a full-time fixed-term appointment for 2 years.

The closing date for this position is 12 noon on 10 May 2024. You will be required to upload a CV and supporting statement as part of your online application.

Contact Person: HR Team, NOORMS
Vacancy ID: L72348
Closing Date & Time: 10-May-2024 12:00

Contact Phone:
Pay Scale: STANDARD GRADE 6
Salary (£): £32,332 - £38,205 p.a
Contact Email: hr@noorms.ox.ac.uk
Where Are We Going?

Any other announcements of upcoming work, events, deadlines, etc?
Three Stages of The Journey

Where Have We Been?
Where Are We Now?
Where Are We Going?
May 7: DevCon Review

Paul Nagy
Johns Hopkins University
Topic: Open-Source Overview

Vishnu Chandrabalan
Lancaster University
Topic: OHDSI/OMOP – The hard way is the easy way

Roger Carlson
Spectrum Health
Topic: Moving OMOP to the Cloud w/ DBT & Snowflake

Adam Black
Erasmus MC
Topic: DARWIN EU® Developers Updates

Lee Evans
LTS Computing LLC
Topic: Broadsea Update

Frank DeFalco
Janssen Research & Development
Topic: Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Update

Katy Sadowski
Boehringer Ingelheim
Topic: Kheiron Cohort Update
The weekly OHDSI community call is held every Tuesday at 11 am ET.

Everybody is invited!

Links are sent out weekly and available at: ohdssi.org/community-calls