



# JAPAN ACADEMIC WORKSHOP

Friday, 17 November | 1:00pm -5:15pm

One Researcher's Opinion About Why Academics in the United States Haven't Widely Used CDISC Standards and Recent Policy That May Prompt Change

Presented by Meredith Nahm Zozus, PhD





# Meet the Speaker

Meredith Nahm Zozus, PhD

**Title:** Professor, Division Chief and Director of Clinical Research Informatics

**Organization:** Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine

Dr. Zozus started her career at Duke University where she served as the Director for the data center at the Duke Clinical Research Institute and the Associate Director for Clinical Research Informatics in the Duke Translational Medicine Institute for 18 years. Her research career has focused on data quality in health care and health-related research including collection and management of data for clinical studies, and assessment and use of Electronic Health Record (EHR) data in clinical studies. Dr. Zozus is currently leading the **AnCilliary Studies to Evaluate Real-World Data Quality (ACE-RWD Program)** assessing FHIR<sup>®</sup> data from EHRs. She is a Professor and Division Chief and Director of Clinical Research Informatics at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (United States).

In addition to over 100 published articles, she has led the development of six national/international data standards, and recently published *The Data Book*, covering fundamental principles behind the collection and management of research data. Dr. Zozus served as the Founding Editor in Chief of the *Good Clinical Data Management Practices (GCDMP)* and the *Journal of the Society for Clinical Data Management (JSCDM)*.



# Disclaimer and Disclosures

- The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of CDISC.*

*I receive research funding from the Burrough's Wellcome Fund, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and the National Institutes of Health*



## Agenda

1. Historic use of CDISC standards in American academia
2. Forces for and against standards use in American academia
3. Recent events that may change the landscape



## Historically, use of CDISC standards in American academia has been low.

Early system dynamic research pinned implementation time and cost as major factors.

Little in the first two decades tipped the balance.

In 2006, ahead of the FDA requiring CDISC standards for regulatory submissions, Gartner and CDISC with support from PhRMA conducted an economic analysis.

Demonstrated that data standards can save significant time and money.

To gain the most savings, they must be implemented up front, i.e., the protocol and CRF design stage.

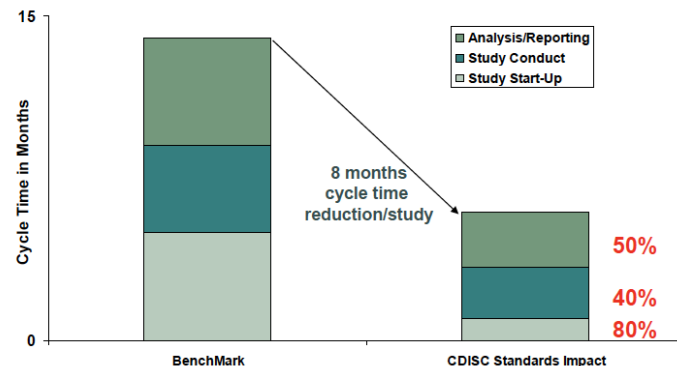
(Rozwell et al. 2007a)

# So what's the problem ?

Savings vary based on study stage at implementation:

1. Start-up Stage (70-90% savings)
2. Study Conduct (~ 40% savings)
3. Analysis and Reporting (~ 50% savings)
4. Overall (~ 60% savings)

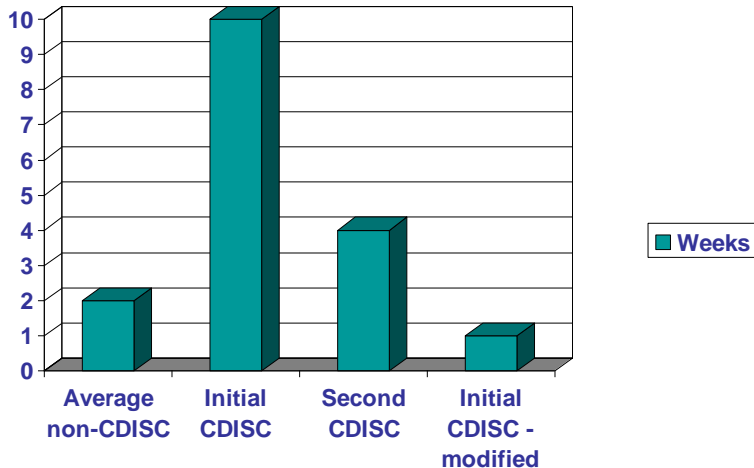
(Rozwell et al. 2007b)



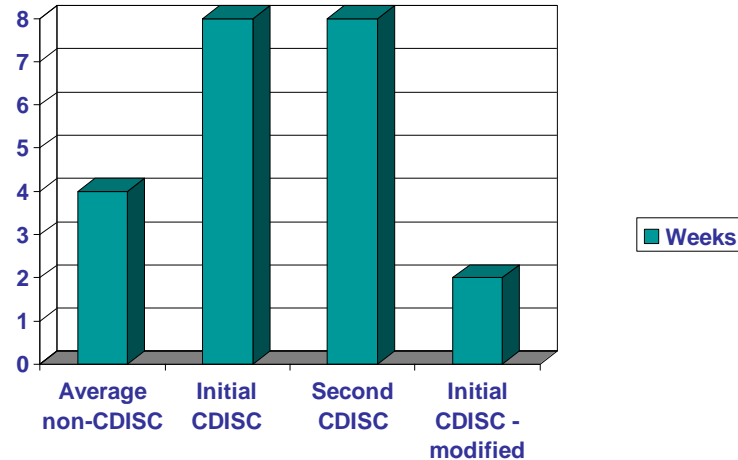
# An Old Tale of Three Studies

Three industry sponsored studies, same compound, same therapeutic area run by an academic coordinating center. The first of the three studies was the first study for which the coordinating center used the CDISC SDM v3.0 standards. The standards were implemented after CRF design in the study operational database. Conducted in 2004.

## Database Specifications



## Database Programming



50% decrease in specification development and database programming by the 3<sup>rd</sup> study



## At My Institution

- ~800 ongoing Investigator Initiated Studies
- Only 3 of them use any of the CDISC standards.
- All three are using the CDASH Demographics only.

# Why ?



# So What's The Problem ? “By the 3<sup>rd</sup> study ...”

## Industry

- Development programs for a compound with many similar studies (lots of chance for ROI)
- Regulations in multiple regions require the standards
- Some software that leverages the standards (more chance for ROI)



## Academia

- Pilot study + the real study  
(Little chance for ROI)  
(ROI accrues to those *other* than those who incurred cost)
- Standards historically not required
- Historically no software that leveraged the standards
- (mis-) Perception that very dollar spent on operations is a dollar that can't go toward statistical power (sample size)



# The Research

Cofiel *et al.* *Health Research Policy and Systems* 2010, **8**:38  
<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/8/1/38>



HEALTH RESEARCH POLICY  
AND SYSTEMS

RESEARCH

Open Access

## A system dynamics analysis determining willingness to wait and pay for the implementation of data standards in clinical research

Luciana Cofiel<sup>1</sup>, Guilherme R Zamma<sup>2</sup>, Amrapali J Zaveri<sup>3</sup>, Jatin Y Shah<sup>4</sup>, Elias Carvalho<sup>5</sup>, Meredith Nahm<sup>6</sup>, Gustavo Kesselring<sup>7</sup>, Ricardo Pietrobon<sup>8\*</sup>

### Abstract

**Background:** Industry standards provide rigorous descriptions of required data presentation, with the aim of ensuring compatibility across different clinical studies. However despite their crucial importance, these standards are often not used as expected in the development of clinical research. The reasons for this lack of compliance could be related to the high cost and time-intensive nature of the process of data standards implementation. The objective of this study was to evaluate the value of the extra time and cost required for different levels of data



## Objective of study: to evaluate

1. the value *to study researchers* of the extra time and cost expended for different levels of data standards implementation and
2. the corresponding likelihood of researchers to implement the standards.

## Methods:

- Twenty different data standardization scenarios exploring three levels of cost and corresponding benefit
- Responded to by 28 researchers (18 USA, 10 Brazil; all informed about advantages and limitations of data standards)
- Asked to choose which of two options (presented in each scenario) they would consider implementing in one of their clinical trials. For example, choosing between high cost / high benefit and mid-range cost / medium benefit

# Range of Cost and Benefit Parameters Considered

**Table 1 Possible data standards implementation levels - time and money parameters for defining the different levels of implementation**

	Attributes	Levels
Financial cost →	Additional cost of study	no additional cost, \$10,000, \$40,000 for US or R\$5,000, R\$20,000 for Brazil
Standards Benefit →	Standards implementation	LITE, INTERMEDIATE, FULL
Time cost →	Additional time before initiation of study	no additional time, 1 month, 4 months

**Lite implementation level:** low cost, a faster implementation time and a low level of standardization.

**Intermediate implementation level:** mid-range cost and time for completion, and greater level of standardization.

**Full implementation level:** high cost, a slower rate of completion and the highest level of standardization.

System Dynamics part: Assumed the cost and time required to implement a standard decreases with the number of standards already implemented. Assumed implementation of standards will lead to the generation of uniform, easily combinable datasets, making it possible for the researcher to work with larger databases. "This will result in higher quality research and publication, creating the desire for more uniform datasets which in turn will lead to the further implementation of data standards."

# Results

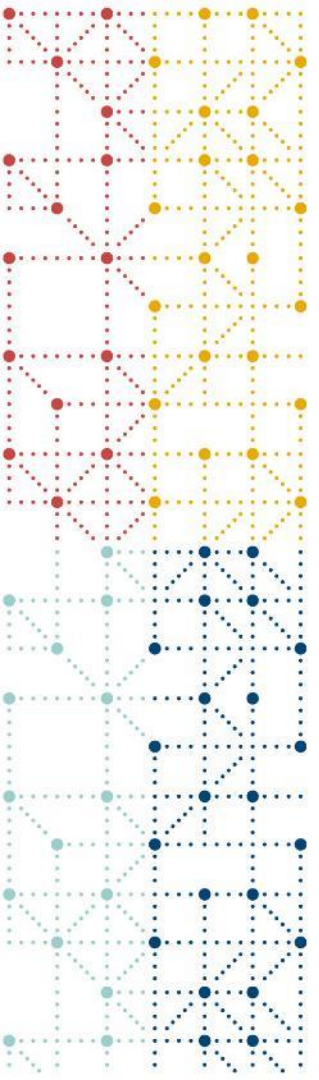
- Whenever possible a researcher chose the lowest possible level of standards
- Researchers indicated preference for a free alternative BUT preferred incurring cost over accepting a delay in study start
- Increased expenditure and time needed to increase standards were seen as barriers to a study.



Status quo  
(no standards)

# Conclusion

“Future studies should explore ways of creating mechanisms which decrease the time and cost associated with standardisation processes.”



**Recent events may change the landscape.**

# The United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) Policy on Data Management and Sharing went into effect on January 25, 2023.

- Requires public data sharing to maximal extent possible
- Encourages standards

Genome-Wide Association  
Studies Policy



OECD

NIH Requires  
Data Sharing  
Policy

White House memorandum re  
expanding public access to  
research

NSF requires Data  
Management Plans

NIH Genomic  
Data Sharing  
(GDS) Policy,

NIH Plan for Increasing Access to Scientific  
Publications and Digital Scientific Data from NIH  
Funded Scientific Research

NIH Policy on  
Dissemination of  
NIH-Funded Clinical  
Trial Information

**NIH Final  
DMS Policy**

Effective

2003

2006

2008

2011

2013

2014

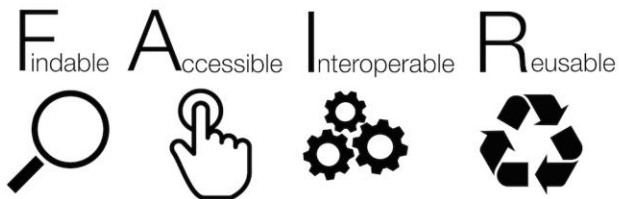
2015

2016

2020

2023

# The



# Guiding Principles

## Findable:

- F1. (meta)data are assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier
- F2. data are described with rich metadata (defined by R1 below)
- F3. metadata clearly and explicitly include the identifier of the data it describes
- F4. (meta)data are registered or indexed in a searchable resource

## Accessible:

- A1. (meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardized communications protocol
  - A1.1 the protocol is open, free, and universally implementable
  - A1.2 the protocol allows for an authentication and authorization procedure, where necessary
- A2. metadata are accessible, even when the data are no longer available

## Interoperable:

- I1. (meta)data use a formal, accessible, shared, and broadly applicable language for knowledge representation.
- I2. (meta)data use vocabularies that follow FAIR principles
- I3. (meta)data include qualified references to other (meta)data

## Reusable:

- R1. meta(data) are richly described with a plurality of accurate and relevant attributes
  - R1.1. (meta)data are released with a clear and accessible data usage license
  - R1.2. (meta)data are associated with detailed provenance
  - R1.3. (meta)data meet domain-relevant community standards





# U.S. National Cancer Institute

- NCI adopted the CDISC Clinical Data Acquisition Standards Harmonization (CDASH) model for all trials, and
- Aligned the NCI data collection standards and template forms with CDISC, CDASH, and SDTM models. ... to enable study builders to easily map the NCI standard CDEs to CDISC variables for FDA submission of IND trial data sets in SDTM format.
- The effort, “eased the institutional burden of transformation to CDISC SDTM when submitting trial data to the FDA.”

# Remember that research conclusion about decrease the time and cost associated with using standards ?



Journal of the Society for  
Clinical Data Management

Cheng AC, et al. Creating and Disseminating CDASH Harmonization Electronic Case Report Forms on the REDCap Shared Data Instrument Library. *Journal of the Society for Clinical Data Management*. 2022; 2(1): 7, pp.1-5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47912/jscdm.172>



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH

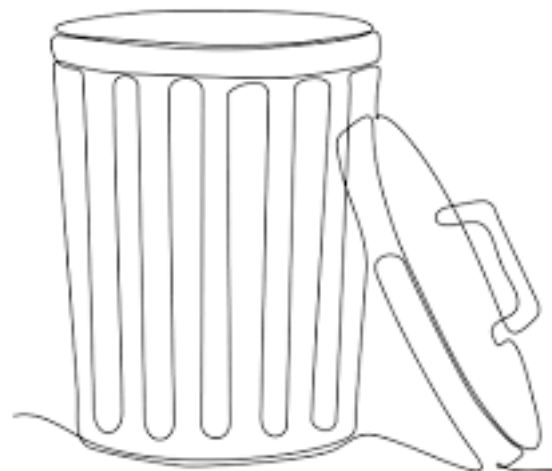
### Creating an Electronic Data Instrument

Alex C. Chen  
Nan Kenrick

Introduction  
platform for  
practices in  
clinical res  
but have h  
Objectives

- The REDCap Electronic Data Capture (EDC) system is used by 6890 institutions (the vast majority academic and other non-profits) in 155 countries around the world.
- In partnership with CDISC, the REDCap team recently translated metadata from 34 CDASH Foundational eCRFs and 20 CDASH Crohn's Disease eCRFs into REDCap eCRF metadata.
- These instruments are now available in the REDCap Shared Data Instrument Library for use.
- Researchers can import the standardized eCRFs directly into their REDCap projects for immediate use in clinical trial data collection.

# Is it enough to tip the balance ?



Thank You!

