

# NIMBLE – Non-Invasive BioMarkers for Metabolic Liver Disease

## Team Science: The Key to Non Invasive Biomarkers Development for NASH

August 11, 2020

Tania Kamphaus, PhD

Scientific Program Manager

Foundation for NIH

**BIOMARKERS**  
CONSORTIUM

IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH  
MEANINGFUL MEASUREMENTS

 **FNIH**  
Foundation for the  
National Institutes of Health

# Foundation for the National Institutes of Health - FNIH



- The mission of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) is to support the mission of the NIH. The FNIH creates and leads alliances and public-private partnerships that advance breakthrough biomedical discoveries and improve the quality of people's lives.



- The FNIH was created by Congress in 1990 as a not-for-profit charitable organization. The Foundation began its work in 1996 to facilitate groundbreaking research at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and worldwide.



- Attract and share resources
- Enable insight and innovation
- Establish standards
- Distribute expertise
- Create consensus
- Drive competitiveness in marketplace
- Disseminate knowledge
- Enhance credibility
- Reduce costs
- Support training & education
- Manage complexity

## Accelerating Medicines Partnership

NIH (OD), NIA, NIAMS, NIDDK, NINDS, 12 companies, 10 not-for-profit organizations

## Partnership for Accelerating Cancer Therapies

NCI, PhRMA, 12 pharmaceutical companies

## Grand Challenges in Global Health (GCGH)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

## Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI)

NIA, NIBIB, 25+ companies, 3 not-for-profit organizations

## The Biomarkers Consortium

FDA, NIH, CMS, PhRMA, BIO, pharmaceutical and nutrition companies, not-for-profit organizations

## Lung-MAP: Master Lung Protocol Trial

NCI (SWOG), FDA, Friends of Cancer Research, 5 companies to date

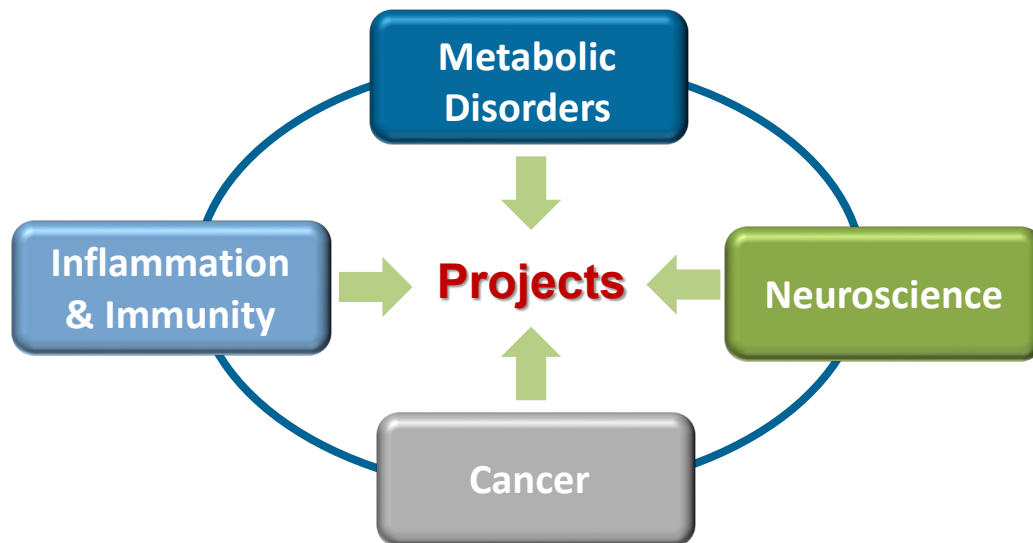
## Helping End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) Partnership Committee

NIH contract

# Biomarkers Consortium

13 years of collaboration, research and progress

TA Aligned Steering Committees



14 therapeutics advanced based on tools generated

9 clinical tools being used in drug development

5 FDA guidance documents supported by work of the BC

1 Clinical safety biomarker Qualification



>50 publications

800+ citations



59 member organizations



# The consortium approach is encouraged by the FDA

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## Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff

### Qualification Process for Drug Development Tools

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)

January 2014  
Procedural

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“Because of the substantial work needed to achieve qualification, CDER [Center for Drug Evaluation and Research] encourages the formation of collaborative groups to undertake these tool-development programs... A variety of projects undertaken by consortia have demonstrated the usefulness of this approach.”

Updated FDA Draft Guidance  
published January 2014

# Noncirrhotic Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis With Liver Fibrosis: Developing Drugs for Treatment Guidance for Industry

## *DRAFT GUIDANCE*

This guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.

Comments and suggestions regarding this draft document should be submitted within 60 days of publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance. Submit electronic comments to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

For questions regarding this draft document contact Evangela Covert 301-796-4075.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)

December 2018  
Clinical/Medical

## FDA Guidance December 2018

“at this time, reliable diagnosis and staging of NASH can **only be made by histopathological examination of the liver biopsy specimen**. Liver biopsy, however, is an invasive procedure that can be associated with occasional **morbidity**, and in rare circumstances, **mortality**”

.....”**therefore noninvasive biomarkers are needed (including imaging biomarkers) to supplant liver biopsy and provide a comparable or superior ability to accurately diagnose and assess various grades of NASH and stages of liver fibrosis**”

# NIMBLE Approved Project Plan accounts for methodological elements needed to meet evidentiary standards

## Stage 1

- Retrospective Analysis of Existing Datasets/Cohorts
- Methodology Studies for Imaging Modalities

Selection of robust candidate biomarkers advancing to Stage 2



Project Milestone

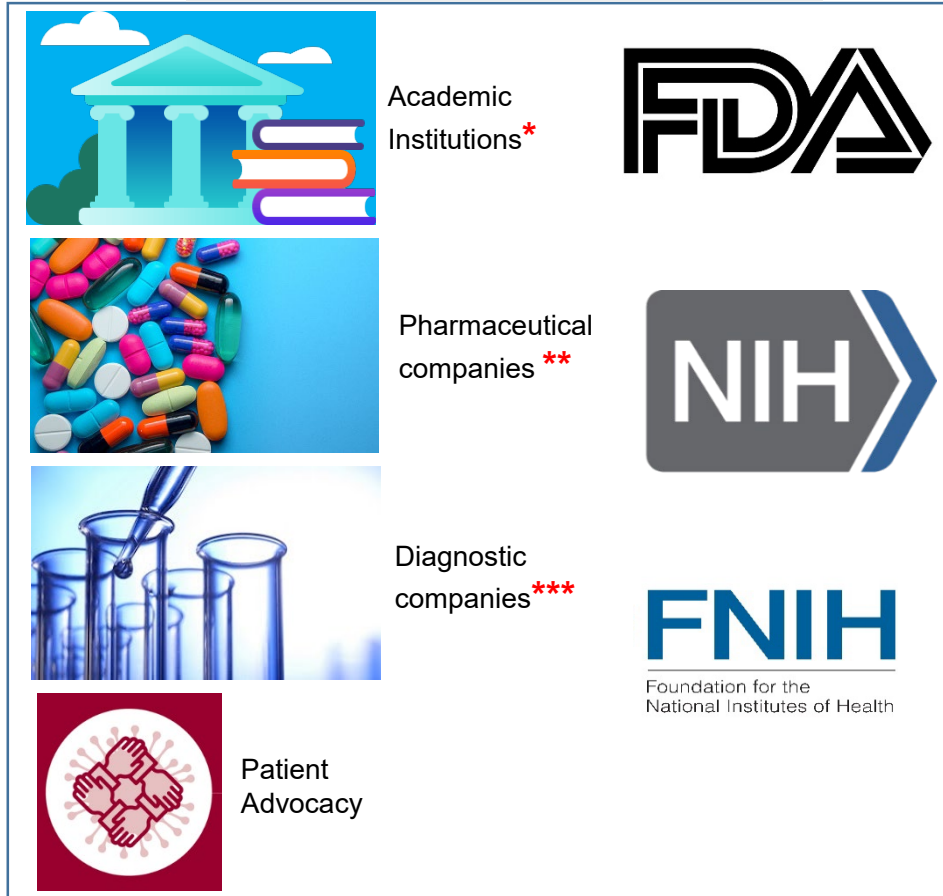


## Stage 2

- Prospective Study for characterization of biomarker performance
- Circulating / Imaging / Others

# NIMBLE Cross-Stakeholder Team Science

## NIMBLE Project Partners



## NIMBLE Project Organization

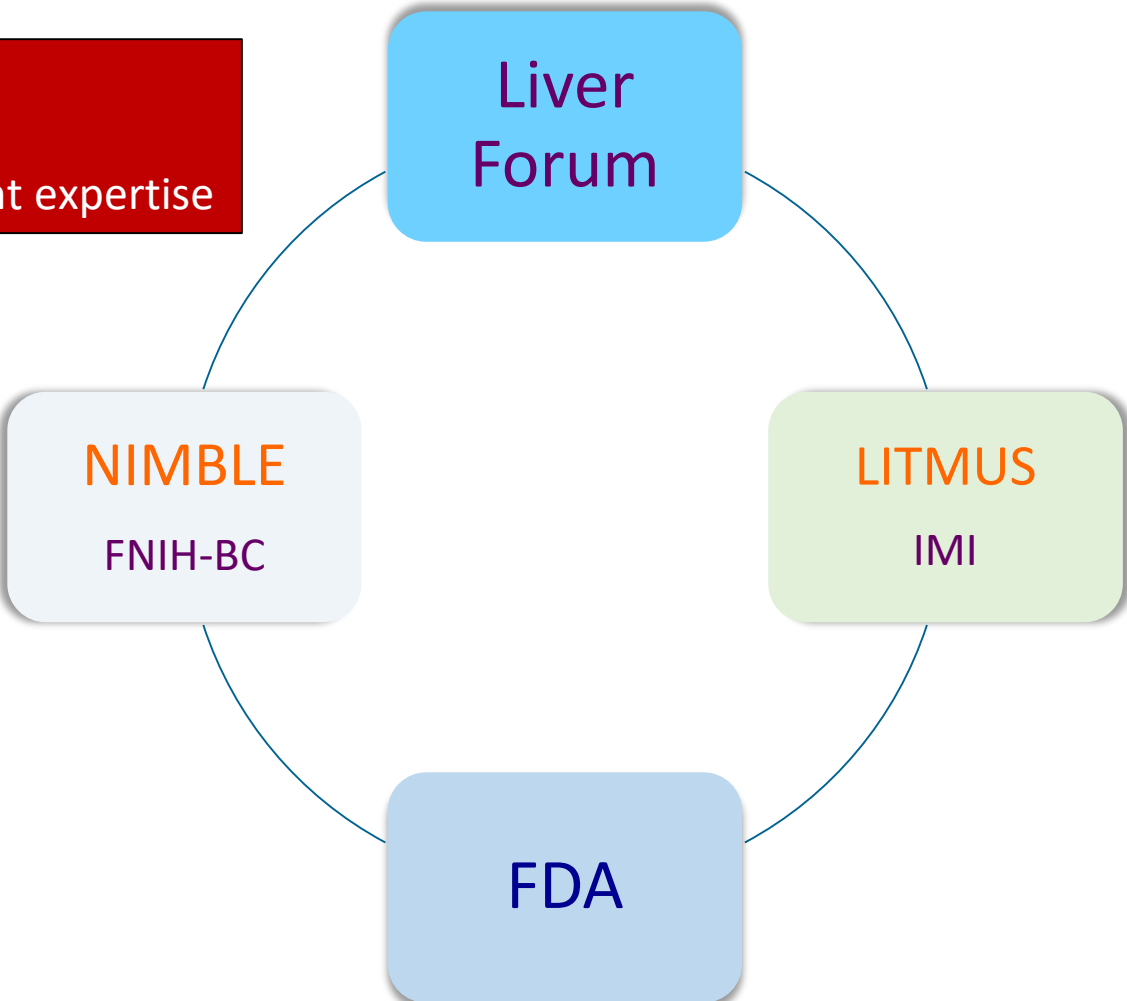


## Roles and Management

- \* Engage in project execution, steering of project. *FNIH manages research agreements and Conflict of Interest*
- \*\* Provide funding and actively involved in steering of project. *FNIH manages funding and deliverables*
- \*\*\* Provide blinded assays only (all in kind). Not involved in steering. *FNIH manages sample and data chain of custody*

# NIMBLE is working and collaborating with LITMUS and Working in Concert with Regulators to Accelerate Biomarker Development

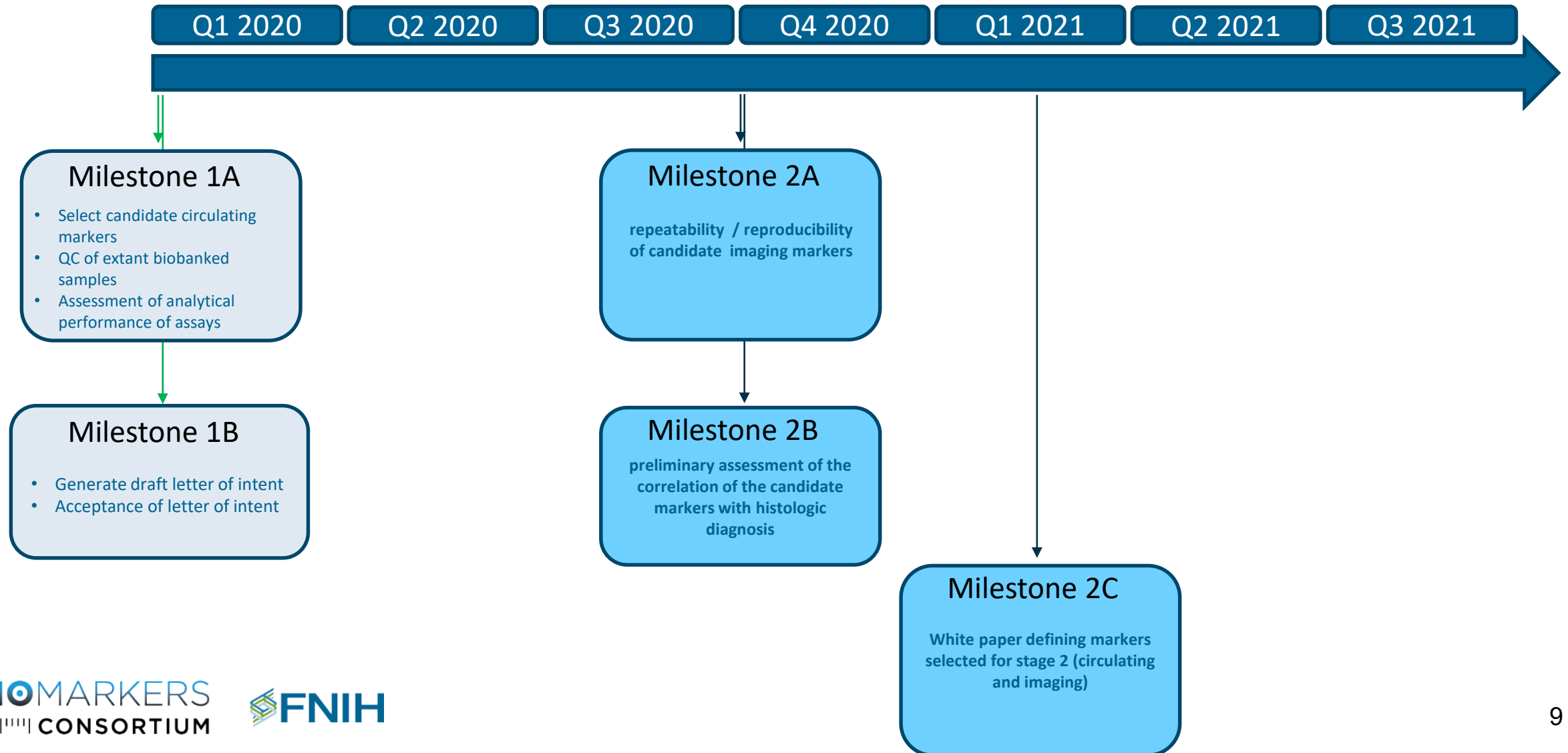
Feedback on LOI application  
Consensus on case definitions  
Helping regulators gain content expertise





# Successes and Original Milestones

Go/no-go  
Q2 2021



# LOI accepted by FDA

## • NIMBLE Letter of Intent (LOI) -

- Submitted: 02-26-2019
- Confirmation of Receipt: 02-26-2019
- Initial Feedback: April 2019
- Revised LOI submitted October 15 2019
- LOI accepted by FDA on February 20, 2020

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/cder-biomarker-qualification-program/biomarker-qualification-submissions>



## LETTER OF INTENT DETERMINATION LETTER

DDTBMQ000084

February 10, 2020

Tania Kamphaus, Ph.D.  
Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) Biomarkers  
Consortium 11400 Rockville Pike  
Suite 600  
North Bethesda, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Tania Kamphaus,

We are issuing this Letter of Intent (LOI) Determination Letter to FNIH to notify you of our determination on your proposed qualification project submitted to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Biomarker Qualification Program (BQP). We have completed our review of your LOI submission deemed reviewable on October 29, 2019 and have concluded to **Accept** it into the CDER Biomarker Qualification Program<sup>1</sup>. We support and encourage your ongoing study and the use of this promising biomarker.

You have proposed qualification of a diagnostic enrichment biomarker to identify patients likely to have liver histopathologic findings of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) as assessed by four circulating biomarker panels (to be used alone or in combination). As this biomarker development effort is refined in subsequent submissions, the submitted data and the design of study(ies) used in the clinical validation of the biomarker will ultimately determine which of the recommendations below are most applicable.

Based on our review of your Letter of Intent, we agree there is an unmet drug development need and agree that development of the proposed biomarker would potentially identify patients more likely to meet the histopathologic entry criteria for inclusion in investigational NASH drug clinical trials.

For the DDT qualification process, please prepare a Qualification Plan (QP) submission that addresses the scientific issues and the recommendations outlined below. A QP contains details of the analytical validation of the biomarker measurement method, detailed summaries of existing data that will support the biomarker and its context of use (COU), and descriptions of knowledge gaps and how you propose they will be mitigated. If future studies are planned, please include detailed study protocols and the statistical analysis plan for each study as part of your QP submission.

<sup>1</sup>In December, 2016, the 21st Century Cures Act added section 507 to the Food, Drug, Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). FDA is now operating its drug development tools (DDT) programs under section 507 of the FD&C Act.  
U.S. Food & Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993  
[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

# Coming up...

**Q4 2020**

- Early Read from Retrospective Study
- Submission of LOI 2 (Imaging)

## Ongoing Conversations and Collaborations

- Steering committee updates
- Continuous FDA engagement
- Liver Forum and community updates
- Patient Groups engagement

**Q1 2021**

- Early reads from Imaging Studies
- 1.1 (US) & 1.2 (MR)

**Q3 2021**

- NIMBLE Proposal for go/no-go to Stage 2
- Qualification Plan

**Q4 2021**

- White Paper
- Prospective Study Initiated

**Q1 2022**

- Full Qualification Plan for FDA

# FNIH NIMBLE Contact Information

For further questions please contact:

Tania Kamphaus  
Scientific Program Manager  
[tkamphaus@fnih.org](mailto:tkamphaus@fnih.org)



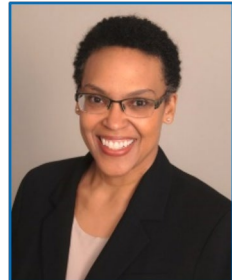
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# Backup Slides



# Mitigation Factors to respond to Covid-19 delay

- Prioritize sample release from cohort/biorepository
- Align with labs and continuously monitor changing scenario – identify when labs can safely accept samples and able to process (e.g., potential backlog)
- Continue Statistical Planning, revising contracts, IRB, Protocols,
- Ongoing interactions of FNIH with Key Collaborator labs to keep posted on developments



# Biomarkers Consortium Private Sector Members (as of 10-10-19)

Represent large and small companies, trade groups and not-for-profit organizations

