

## Proposal Summary

**COVID-19 Data 101: A Primer on Health Data from Providers to Models and Reports in North Carolina and beyond.**

**Background and Motivation:** As we face the COVID-19 global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus, medical professionals, technologists, community leaders, and policy makers need to leverage data to grapple with the current social situation while also using data to build predictive models for the coming months and years. We are all collecting data, at various levels, from the individual to communities and organizations across our state. As we collect and analyze data from various sources in the fight against this epidemic, the average North Carolinian is left wondering how to make sense of the role of data in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

**We propose to seek the help of leading public health and medical professionals at UNC-CH and across the state of NC to develop a report which will answer some of the many questions that arise regarding the collection and use of COVID-19 data.**

For example:

- What are the different sources of data?
- How are the data being collected?
- What are the differences in data interpretation?
- How is the data being used, either standalone, or in coordination with other datasets in presenting the status of the pandemic within counties across the state?
- How are hospital capacities and utilizations being collected and reported?
- Is there coordination among the health providers across the state?
- What are the labs involved in testing for the virus?
- Where are the testing sites, and how are they accessed by patients?
- How is the data being aggregated?
- What data is being missed?
- How is co-morbidity being addressed and reported?
- How is all this used in models and reports for the current state and future prediction of COVID-19 in North Carolina?
- How consistent are the different COVID-19 related data reported at various web sites (NC DHHS, JHU CovidTracker, New York Times COVID data repository, CDC state level data etc.)
- And finally, how is what North Carolina doing different from our neighboring states?

Our report will serve as a COVID-19 Data 101 primer for North Carolinians trying to grapple with the role of data in dealing with this pandemic. This is an attempt to make a difference by providing a starting point for the public to understand the nebulous universe of data, reporting, analysis, availability, sharing, coordination, modeling etc. across the state.

We expect to seek the help of experts at UNC School of Medicine, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Sheps Center for Health Services Research, NC DHHS, UNC Health, Duke Health, DCRI and other health providers across the state as we attempt to document the flow of data in dealing with COVID-19. Though not a direct goal, one benefit that could also evolve from this report is a first step in creating a Data Management Plan for the NC Policy Collaboratory as it coordinates multiple projects across various institutions in NC.

**Team:** Ashok Krishnamurthy, Deputy Director, RENCI; Stan Ahalt, Director, RENCI (Interviewer); Jay Aikat, Chief Operating Officer, RENCI (Interviewer); Asia Mieczkowska, Associate Operations Officer (Organizer, Interviewer); Julie Hayes, Executive Assistant (Writer), Stefania Knight (Coordination), Hannah Hiles (Project Management) and TBD (software development and analytics).

**Budget:** We request a total budget of \$193,252 for the cost of significant time commitment by the team members listed above to conduct the interviews and the research needed to prepare and write this report.

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| EHRA Salary            | 99,583         |
| SHRA Salary            | 10,725         |
| Grad Student           |                |
| Temps                  |                |
| Fringe Pool            | 32,944         |
| Non-Personnel Expenses | 50,000         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>193,252</b> |

**EHRA**

Ashok Krisnamurthy  
Stan Ahalt  
Jay Aikat  
Asia Mieczkowska  
Hannah Hiles  
Subject Matter Experts  
Software Developer

**SPA**

Julie Hayes  
Stefania Knight