

Across study online meeting (28 Oct 2026)

Attendees

Stijn Agus Adrianus Massar (Singapore), Ruth Leong (Singapore), Rachel Chan (Hong Kong SAR), Sijing Chen (Hong Kong SAR), Chris Xie Chen (Hong Kong SAR), Matthew Mak (Hong Kong SAR), Ami Cohen (Israel), 黃玉書 Yu-Shu Huang (Taiwan), Tayard Desudchit (Thailand), Kanjaporn Sirisomboonlarp (Thailand), Jee Hyun Kim (South Korea), Ami Cohen (Israel), Dewi Maulina (Indonesia), Yoko Komada (Japan)

Quick recap

This meeting was a progress update for the ACROSS study. The team discussed progress updates from various centers. Several centers discussed challenges with IRB requirements. The group agreed to extend the data collection deadline to the end of December 2026 to accommodate different centers' progress, and discussed authorship and data usage policies for the shared publication.

Progress

Data collection completed: Japan, Israel

Data collection started: Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam

IRB approved: Iran, India, Guangzhou (Mainland China)

IRB in process: Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, Mianyang (Mainland China), Shanghai (Mainland China)

Challenges

Several centres have experienced challenges with IRB requirements, particularly regarding parental consent processes for adolescent studies (e.g. some IRBs require photographic confirmation of the parent identity). Since IRB requirements differ for each centre, it is hard to formulate a unified response (e.g. some IRBs do not require parental consent, other IRBs allow online parental consent with no ID verification). Attendees agreed to share their IRB approved consent forms as a reference for those still processing IRB. The group also explored technical possibilities of implementing official digital signature verification within the platform (e.g. through Adobe or DocuSign), although uncertainty about feasibility and IRB acceptance of such digital signatures remained.

Timeline

Attendees agreed on extending the data collection period from October 2026 to the end of December 2026 to accommodate different centers' progress. After this, data analysis and writing should start.

Any other business (AOB)

1. Questionnaire Reuse and Approvals

Dr. Tayard (Thailand) enquired about the possibility for reusing the questionnaire in future data collection (unrelated to ACROSS). The group was in principle in

agreement with such instrument reuse. Stijn suggested to do put the request in writing to also allow the non-attending centres to weigh in.

2. Survey testing vs production link

Matthew Mak (Hong Kong) emphasized the difference between the survey testing link (UAT: user agreement testing), and the production link (used for actual data collection), with distinct indicators to prevent misallocation of test data to real participants.

Action points

Matthew

- Ensure all centers are aware of the distinction between testing and production survey links, and provide support if the wrong link is used.

Stijn

- Share the meeting recording and notes with all participants, including those who could not attend.
- Set up a shared folder (e.g., G-drive) for Indonesia (Dewi) to upload scanned parental consent forms and share the link with Dewi.
- Discuss with Matthew the technical setup for secure sharing of IRB approval letters and consent forms among participating centers.
- Share Singapore's IRB approval letter and consent form with the group for reference by other centers (e.g., Taiwan).
- Extend the data collection period until the end of December 2026 and communicate this to all centers.

Tayard

- Put the request to reuse the questionnaire for the Ministry of Health survey in writing and share with the group for any objections.