

Stockholm, May 22nd 2017

VF symposium 2017

### **Voice Lab Representatives' Meeting Coming Up!**

Dear all,

last year attendance was fractional, apparently due to misunderstandings concerning who is eligible and the room for the meeting. For this year's meeting, please encourage those of your colleagues who have any say or interest in voice labs to join us.

This forum serves to ventilate our needs and concerns about lab procedures and lab equipment. I see it as a problem, however, that we tend to start with the tools rather than with what we are supposed to do with them. For research this is not a great problem; researchers tend to develop and acquire what they need for the question at hand. But even successful research prototypes rarely make it into profitable products produced by stable companies. Technology is transient and there is not much point in comparing this or that machine. I am convinced that the VF could contribute more substantially, by turning the issue around, and laying down firm specifications for things such as:

- which voice metrics are *required* for providing quantitative evidence for clinical use, including the quality of those measurements
- which media need to be safely archived with the patient's journal
- what a voice analysis system needs to play harmoniously with centralized IT support
- which certifications are (not) needed to comply with national regulations
- how a voice analysis system needs to be integrated with local, regional or national databases,
- how all the above should be tested

If these things can be established ( big job...), then the health care provider can issue detailed and precise procurement orders, and it will be up to the suppliers to meet the required criteria, in their tenders. Also, it would signal to the developers what they need to develop.

In Europe, procurement-driven innovation is beginning to catch on, and I'd like to try it. As it happens, my university KTH, and the Stockholm County Council (which administrates public health care in the Stockholm area) have recently issued *a joint call* for applications in Health, Medicine and Technology. Maria Södersten, Svante Granqvist and I will be applying on June 15th 2017 for this regional funding, hopefully to give us the paid time needed to write such specifications for the SCC, and to oversee an ensuing procurement process. However, the needs are presumably similar in many places, and if approved, we expect this to have impact in all of Sweden, to begin with. It would be very interesting if we could obtain also your input and thereby pave the way for some alignment even internationally.

So, if I might ask you to *ignore* what you currently have in your clinic, and instead try to list what you actually *must have*, and bring a few notes on this topic to the Symposium, it would be wonderful. Also, if you can suggest other criteria that should go on such a procurement order, that would be most helpful.

Many thanks, see you next week,

*Sten Ternström*  
Committee chair