

Summary of ISCTM Negative Symptoms Working Group in Washington, DC on February 15, 2023

The meeting was co-chaired by Steve Marder and David Daniel.

The publication history of the working group was reviewed and noted to have included three previous publications addressing methodological issues in negative symptom trials and an FDA commentary. The Remote Assessment of Negative Symptoms subcommittee reported that it had completed a new review of the state of remote assessment of negative symptoms including discussion of the advantages and limitations of the current modalities, potential useful scenarios for multi-modal remote measurement and challenges relating to psychometric validation. The manuscript has been accepted for publication in Schizophrenia Bulletin Open. Alex Cohen, Phil Harvey, Dawn Velligan and Larry Alphas were recognized as key section leaders in the drafting of the manuscript.

New data addressing emerging modalities for measurement of negative symptoms were presented by Phil Harvey (Ecological Momentary Assessment), Alex Cohen (speech analysis) and Michael Spilka (computerized speech analysis). Seth Hopkins presented a novel methodology for assessment of negative symptoms in clinical trials of acute schizophrenia. There was agreement that these methods and others contribute by assessing different domains of negative symptoms.

There was a consensus that an appropriate next step for the working group should be to develop a multimodal consensus instrument for measuring negative symptoms. The workgroup agreed to develop a publication that would propose a process for developing the instrument. Specific next steps to kick this off will be forthcoming.