

Head of Division
Environment, Health and Safety Division
Environment Directorate

ENV/EHS/BD/lr/2023.01

Paris, 15 March 2023

Dear Award Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Dr. Laure Alix Clerbaux, Dr. Brigitte Landesmann, and Dr. Clemens Wittwehr and the CIAO (Modelling the pathogenesis of COVID-19 using the Adverse Outcome Pathway Framework) project for the “2022 JRC Excellence Award” in the category “Knowledge Management”.

The nominated team members managed to initiate the CIAO project promptly when the scientific community was struggling to make sense of the overwhelming flood of publications related to COVID-19. Coordinating the identification, motivation, assembly and subsequent collaboration of scientists with expertise in various areas was a great challenge that was executed with notable success. The success of the project is also reflected in the numerous outputs that include scientific publications and AOPs relevant to COVID-19 that are stored in the AOP-Wiki.

As you are probably aware, the Environment, Health and Safety Division at the Organisation for Economic and Co-operation Development (OECD), has been managing an international Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) development programme for the last ten years. Parts of the AOPs developed by the CIAO project are now starting to become foundational components of chemical safety-related AOPs and are used by both the scientific and regulatory communities.

The OECD appreciates the role the CIAO project played in not only enriching the actual scientific knowledge collected in the AOP-Wiki with highly relevant AOPs, but also in demonstrating the real-life applicability of the fundamental AOP principles of knowledge management, crowdsourcing and interdisciplinarity.

In summary, the CIAO project is inspirational and its achievements are expected to have a positive impact on the way of approaching AOP development and use by multidisciplinary teams.

Sincerely,



Bob Diderich