HEALTH AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF LONG COVID

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RIWI is seeking feedback and expressions of interest in partnering on an innovative program of research about the health and economic impacts of "long COVID." Leveraging RIWI's Random Domain Intercept Technology, RIWI and its partners will be well-positioned to uncover the long COVID-related barriers to healthy living, labor market impacts, and extended implications across all countries of interest.

THE CHALLENGE

There have been over 530 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide. For many, a positive COVID-19 test marks the beginning of an enduring battle with long COVID. Over a quarter of COVID-19 patients experience persisting symptoms (e.g., body aches, difficulty concentrating). Individuals of working age are more likely to experience long COVID, with 68% of all examined long COVID cases occurring among those between the ages of 18 and 59 years.

> Over 1 in 4 COVID-19 patients experience long COVID.

Long COVID may contribute to contemporary labor shortages by forcing workers out of the labor market due to incapacitating physical and psychological symptoms. In the UK, 5% of long COVID sufferers reported leaving their employer because of persisting symptoms. At present, long COVID's full impact on the labor market and supply chain is unknown, and the global prevalence of long COVID and its health and economic implications are likely underestimated due to biased sampling techniques, limitations associated with administrative data collection, and inconsistencies in global reporting.

Long COVID poses a global public health and economic crisis that has yet to be adequately addressed by research and policy. Global, integrated research efforts are needed to effectively evaluate the scope of its impact. This initiative offers a method to standardize the measurement of long COVID-related indicators, enabling trend tracking and international comparison.

> We are eager to hear your feedback and interest in supporting the development, scope, and implementation of this innovation.
> Contact **RIWI** at **ask@riwi.com**.

TOGETHER, WE'LL CONFRONT THE CHALLENGE

RIWI's patented and proven Random Domain Intercept Technology (RDIT) can confront the challenge. RDIT rapidly and continuously captures randomized, global human sentiment and experience data. The unique technology allows for inclusive data collection, global reach, and deeper insights beyond traditional administrative metrics and survey data. RDIT is fully anonymous, which encourages honest responses to questions assessing sensitive topics, such as health and economic standing.

> Seeking strategic partners to support, steer, and champion this innovation

RIWI's RDIT could be rapidly harnessed to address various challenges resulting from long COVID around the world, such as those listed below.

Health impacts:
- What is the current and ongoing global prevalence of long COVID (symptomatology and diagnosis)?
- How are individuals with long COVID managing their persisting symptoms across the globe? Do long COVID patients trust and respect healthcare professionals' recommendations for symptom management?
- What mental health outcomes are associated with long COVID and to what extent do they impair social, physical, and economic well-being?

Economic impacts:
- What is the current and ongoing labor market disengagement rate among individuals with long COVID? How many people have left the labor market to care for a loved one with long COVID?
- Do long COVID patients who have left the labor market intend to return to work once their condition improves, or will they permanently disengage from the labor market?
- How are individuals with long COVID who have left the labor market supplementing their lost income? Are they claiming governmental assistance or engaging in another form of work (e.g., "gig work")?