In 2013, the Semantic Technology Working Group (ST-WG) “emerged” as an independent entity from the Emerging Trends and Technologies Working Group (ET&T-WG). The ST-WG focused on the application of W3C semantic standards to the clinical and non-clinical trial life-cycle. Over the past 4 years, the WG developed several well received work packages including the CDISC Foundational Standards in RDF, Clinical Development Design white papers, and RDF data cube R package and technical specification. The ST-WG also conducted several well attended workshops at CSS's and PhUSE Annual Conferences.

Although the workshops were well attended, participation dwindled over the last 2 years as ST-WG projects completed. The Co-Leads and other Life Science and Regulatory thought leaders recognize the future of clinical and non-clinical data analytics are modern, contextual, expressive database technologies (i.e. NOT tabular datasets). As such, the Co-Leads are reshaping the “context” of the ST-WG to explore other technologies such as property graphs in tandem with RDF/OWL. Further, the renewed LD&GDB-WG will also focus on education and the business value of these technologies for Life Sciences companies.

The LD&GDB-WG Breakout Sessions at the 2017 CSS will differ from previous years. The LD&GDB-WG will be hosting a “Link-a-thon” focused on prototyping alternatives to the SAS v5 transport format using RDF/OWL and Neo4j. The Link-a-thon builds upon the work in the ET&T-WG Alternative Transport project. The Alternative Transport project developed a set of evaluation criteria for the next generation submission data exchange format.

CDISC SMEs, technologists, innovators, and influencers welcome!

SDTM Data as RDF will kick off at the 2017 CSS. This project will represent clinical data and terminology in RDF and demonstrate that conformant SDTM data and metadata can be produced from the RDF representation. Additionally, the project will document the value proposition for Life Science companies and Regulators.

Co-Leads anticipate that the Link-a-thon and SDTM Data as RDF discussions will lead to a plethora of new ideas and activity. Are you ready to get linked in?