

10/13/26



CSM Advising LLC
27 Hibiscus Ct
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(949) 502-1881
christopher.steven.marcum@gmail.com

Dear TOPx Selection Committee,

I write to provide my endorsement and support to *VantiScope: Mapping Disease Burden, Research Investment, and Evidence Gaps in Invisible Illness* as it advances to Phase 2 of the TOPx HHS Tech Sprint for AI and Invisible Illness at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As an expert in federal data policy, my perspective is informed by my previous federal roles, which include serving as Assistant Director for Open Science and Data Policy at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and as a Senior Statistician and Senior Scientist at the White House Office of Management and Budget. Throughout my career in public service and my current work in data strategy consulting, I have focused on open science, research data governance, and making open government data accessible and actionable.

VantiScope addresses a core data infrastructure challenge. Information regarding disease burden, research funding, publications, and clinical trials is currently distributed across isolated systems. Integrating these open data assets into a common platform enables researchers, funders, policymakers, and patient advocates to assess research priorities and unmet evidence needs accurately.

The platform provides substantial analytical utility. Users – taking the perspective of different profiles – can examine questions about funded research, explore relevant publications, track relationships between research records, and separate planned trial outcomes from posted findings all tailored to relevant use-cases. I appreciate the project's attention to data interpretation. VantiScope carefully distinguishes between active research and established clinical findings, as well as between missing data and verified gaps in evidence. Preserving these methodological distinctions and making data limitations visible ensures VantiScope provides a rigorous foundation for investigating evidence gaps.

Focusing on conditions including endometriosis, ME/CFS, POTS, Long COVID, and Chronic Kidney Disease gives the platform an immediate application. Furthermore, its modular architecture creates structured opportunities to incorporate additional data sources. During my discussions with Hamad Al-Ibrahim and Chloe Bird, we specifically identified viable

extensions utilizing VA and AHRQ HCUP data to examine disease burden in clinical settings and the community at large.

VantiScope offers a highly practical use of open federal data to support transparent research planning and informed public dialogue regarding invisible illnesses. I fully support its continued development and consideration in Phase 2 of this competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris P. Marcum", written over the printed name.

Christopher Steven Marcum

Consultant

Former White House Official