LongeviQuest
CHARTER

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GLOBAL VALIDATION COMMISSION
GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT OF LONGEVIQUEST VALIDATION PROCEDURES

I. PURPOSE

a. The purpose of the **LongeviQuest Global Validation Commission ("the Commission")** is to establish universal recognition of the world's oldest people. The signatories of this Charter recognize that the study of longevity is relevant to all humankind, and therefore requires a governance structure based on cooperation rather than fragmentation. This Charter aims to evolve the field of longevity research by codifying the fundamental principles of fairness, inclusion, and transparency into the foundational document of this new era.

II. DECLARATION OF POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

a. All signatories of this Charter agree that at no time shall political considerations impact the manner in which research is conducted. The signatories recognize that LongeviQuest and the Global Validation Commission are apolitical entities and that neither LongeviQuest nor the Global Validation Commission render decisions on matters of state. As such, signatories of this Charter accept LongeviQuest's identification of the nations of the world – and their borders – as those nations recognized as "States" by the United Nations. For further reference, please see the following links:

- **i.** United Nations Member States: https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states
- **ii.** United Nations Non-Member States: https://www.un.org/en/about-us/non-member-states
- **iii.** United Nations Map of the World: https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world
- **iv.** **Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 2:** "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty."
  1. Link: https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

III. AGREEMENT ON HUMAN CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESEARCH

a. The welfare of the human beings we study should be the paramount concern of everyone in this field. All signatories of this Charter agree to conduct research in accordance with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Articles 1, 6, and 12 (in addition to Article 2 mentioned in Section IV).

- **i.** Universal Declaration of Human Rights: https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

ii. **Article 1:** "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

iii. **Article 6:** "Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law."

iv. **Article 12:** "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."

IV. PRIVACY LAWS

a. All signatories of this Charter agree to conduct validation research in full compliance with all applicable privacy laws and regulations, notably including (but not limited to) the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** (https://gdpr-info.eu/), the **Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI)** (https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/hourei/data/APPI.pdf), and the **Brazilian Data Protection Law** (https://lgpd-brazil.info/).

b. In addition to legal obligations, signatories of this Charter also agree to conduct research in accordance with common courtesy, and to treat people who are nearing the end of their lives, as well as their loved ones, with requisite respect and kindness.

c. ANONYMITY

i. LongeviQuest recognizes all validated cases. In no circumstance will (super)centenarians, their families, loved ones, or caregivers be compelled by LongeviQuest to permit the public display of their name(s), image(s), or likeness(es). While personally identifying information must be known to LongeviQuest researchers for private evaluation, LongeviQuest will honor all requests for public anonymity. The inclusion of anonymous cases is critical for LongeviQuest's commitment to utmost scientific accuracy.

V. DEFINITIONS

a. Accredited Status

i. Holding **accredited status** at the organizational level signifies that validations conducted by the organization are, by default, recognized by LongeviQuest and that the organization is a signatory to the LongeviQuest Charter. Validations by Accredited Partner Organizations (further defined below) can be challenged before the Commission, but a supermajority (2/3rd) vote will be required to overrule the validation.

1. Organizations/researchers which are not accredited with LongeviQuest must apply for public recognition of a validation on a case-by-case basis. Cases must be submitted individually, with a supermajority vote (2/3rd) required to approve the validation.
2. All LongeviQuest Subsidiaries and APOs automatically enjoy accredited status, but their validations may still be challenged before the Commission.

b. Subsidiary

i. A **Subsidiary** is a research organization fully integrated into LongeviQuest's corporate structure, with financial and logistical support provided by LongeviQuest to the Subsidiary to expand the scope of research activities. Subsidiaries nevertheless retain authority to direct their own research activities, including validating claims (submitted to Commission for approval) and determining the allocation of the research budget. New Subsidiaries are granted Charter seats on the Commission upon their founding/reorganization as Subsidiaries. Subsidiaries may effectively be successor entities of previously independent organizations, in which case the status of Subsidiary is requisite upon the cessation of research activities in the name of the prior organization.

1. Research activities by Subsidiaries are to be led by a **Subsidiary President**, appointed by the LongeviQuest CEO. The responsibilities of the Subsidiary President include the following:

a. Directing research activities within the Subsidiary, including allocation of the research budget.

b. Appointing Lead Correspondents at the national level.

i. There is no prohibition on a Subsidiary President simultaneously serving as a Lead National Correspondent, but the person must publicly use both titles when conducting LongeviQuest activities.

c. Serving as the lead media contact regarding validations/research activities conducted by the Subsidiary.

d. Formally appointing the Subsidiary's Global Validation Commissioner.

2. Subsidiaries within LongeviQuest which are effectively the successor entities of organizations which were previously independent retain the following rights:

a. Permanent recognition of prior organization's credit for past validations. Becoming a LongeviQuest Subsidiary explicitly does not reassign credit for validations conducted under the auspices of the prior organization.

b. LongeviQuest may, at the request of the Subsidiary upon the dissolution of the prior organization, take action to preserve the capacity to revive the prior organization in the event LongeviQuest in the future were to permanently cease operations. Any such actions must be included in a written agreement between LongeviQuest and the Subsidiary.

3. "Subsidiary" in this context is to be understood by all signatories to reference entities focused specifically on research, operating at the regional (continental) level. LongeviQuest may operate commercial subsidiaries which

do not function as research organizations. These commercial subsidiaries are not otherwise referenced in this document and fall outside of the research governance structure.

c. Accredited Partner Organization

i. An **Accredited Partner Organization ("APO")** is an external research organization which is not integrated within LongeviQuest's corporate structure, but which nevertheless is afforded accredited status equal to Subsidiaries for the purposes of global cooperation on longevity research. The status includes mutual recognition of validated claims, as well as eligibility for a Commission seat. APOs will be granted a seat on the Commission.

1. The APO relationship involves mutual transparency and full disclosure of data. However, the APO relationship expressly forbids either party from claiming ownership of the other party's data. The submission of confidential data by APO representatives to LongeviQuest or the Commission does not constitute a transfer of ownership of the data. APO representatives must similarly refrain from saving, copying, or distributing any confidential data shared by LongeviQuest Subsidiaries or other APOs.

d. Accredited Validator

i. An **Accredited Validator** is an individual researcher who, regardless of organizational affiliation, is credited with three or more (3+) validations recognized by LongeviQuest. Accredited Validator is a status which will be publicly recognized by LongeviQuest. This status is conferred automatically and does not require bestowal by the Commission.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GLOBAL VALIDATION COMMISSION

a. The primary responsibility of the Global Validation Commission (hereafter referred to as "the Commission") is to determine who is recognized as a validated (super)centenarian by **LongeviQuest**, and by extension any third parties who may utilize/display data published by LongeviQuest. This broad responsibility includes the rights for the Commission to render decisions in the following areas:

i. Settling disputes from past validations to ensure accuracy. Such disputes may include (but are not limited to):

1. Overall validation status
2. Birthdate disputes
3. Spelling errors
4. Naming conventions
5. Geographical disputes (including cases in which a person's birthplace has changed national sovereignty since the person's birth)

ii. Arbitrating future validation challenges.

1. A **challenge** is a formal objection raised by a Commissioner (or multiple) that a validation conducted by a Subsidiary/APO does not meet the Minimum Validation Standards.
2. The Commission has sole authority to arbitrate such disputes. Only Commissioners have the right to challenge a validation. (Procedures for this are outlined below in Section VII.)
3. Unless challenged, validations conducted by Subsidiaries/APOs are recognized by LongeviQuest. Commissioners may waive their right to challenge a validation.

iii. Determining accreditation status of other organizations.
1. See "Accredited Status" definition above.

iv. Enforcing proper individual recognition for validated cases. Given that LongeviQuest will be soliciting validation submissions from the public, not every case will be submitted by a currently known researcher. It is the policy of LongeviQuest to permanently and publicly recognize the individual researcher(s) responsible for each validation.

v. Updating the Charter as needed.
1. Most notably, this includes establishing/reviewing/updating the **Minimum Validation Standards** and **Validation Status Classifications**. While the initial standards/classifications will be established in this document, the Commission has the purview to adjust these in the future.

VII. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

a. The voting members of the Global Validation Commission are to be known as Commissioners.

i. A **Commissioner** is understood to have two roles:
1. **Representative of their organization** – the Commissioner appointed by each organization (Subsidiary/Accredited Partner Organization) will be tasked with defending any validations conducted by their organization which are subsequently challenged by another Commissioner. Commissioners should be integrated within their organizations' research activities and be prepared to communicate with individual researchers whose work is in question. Commissioners must be prepared to defend their organization's research against challenges rooted in bias.
2. **Trustee of the field** – each Commissioner is also expected to conduct their duties with the best interests of the field of longevity research, and LongeviQuest, in mind. For both the field and LongeviQuest, the most important factor is scientific legitimacy. Commissioners are expected to apply their expertise to ensure maximum accuracy for all research recognized by the Commission or LongeviQuest. Commissioners must be prepared to put aside

their natural bias in favor of their organization and consider challenges on their merits.

ii. Minimum of three (3) Commissioners at any given time.

iii. Maximum of nine (9) Commissioners at any given time.

b. Membership Composition

i. Commissioners (Voting Seats)

1. Charter seats on the Commission are granted to Subsidiaries and founding Accredited Partner Organizations. (Organizational Commissioners)
2. A single Commission seat will be reserved for an external individual of recognized stature in the field of longevity, gerontology, or aging research. This individual must be nominated by the LongeviQuest CEO and be approved by a majority of the active Commissioners. The LongeviQuest CEO may never appoint themselves to the Commission.

ii. Ex-Officio (Non-Voting Seats)

1. Commission activities shall be coordinated by the **Non-Voting Facilitator ("Facilitator")**, appointed by the CEO of LongeviQuest. The Facilitator is explicitly not a Commissioner. The Facilitator's role shall be: 1) to manage the technical/logistical components of the meeting; 2) to safeguard the confidential data to be viewed by the Commissioners; 3) to maintain decorum; and 4) to ensure efficient and timely action by the Commissioners.
    a. The Facilitator is empowered to act unilaterally to ensure the proper functioning of the Global Validation Commission. Unilateral actions by the Facilitator are limited to procedures and the appointment/removal of Commissioners. Under no circumstances is the Facilitator empowered to issue a validation decision. A Commissioner may move to overrule a unilateral action by the Facilitator, and if such a motion is seconded by another Commissioner, the overrule motion will be voted upon by the entire Commission.
        i. If there are four (4) or fewer sitting Commissioners, unilateral actions of the Facilitator may be overruled by unanimous vote of the Commission.
        ii. If there are five (5) or more sitting Commissioners, unilateral actions of the Facilitator may be overruled by a supermajority (2/3rd) vote of the Commission.

c. Appointment of Commissioners

i. There are two methods to attain eligibility to serve as a Global Validation Commissioner:

1. One must be an Accredited Validator actively affiliated with a Subsidiary or APO.

2. One must be recognized as having independent stature in the field. (see Membership Composition section i.2 above)

ii. Commissioners representing Subsidiaries and APOs (Organizational Commissioners) are appointed from within those organizations themselves. LongeviQuest encourages the establishment of decision-making processes within Subsidiaries and APOs to appoint Commissioners. The appointment is formally made by the Subsidiary President/APO leadership.

1. The appointment of Organizational Commissioners must be approved by the Subsidiary President/APO leadership and supported in writing by at least two (2+) other Accredited Validators within the organization. The appointment must be submitted to the Facilitator at least 21 days prior to the expiration of the active term.
2. If five or more (5+) Accredited Validators from the Subsidiary/APO in question provide a written challenge to the appointment of their Commissioner to the Facilitator (with the knowledge that such challenge will be made public), the Facilitator has the right to conduct a vote of all Accredited Validators within the organization to determine the representative capacity of the original appointment. If the results of the vote reflect dissatisfaction, the Facilitator may request the nomination of an alternate Commissioner by the Subsidiary President/APO leadership.
3. If seven or more (7+) Accredited Validators from a Subsidiary/APO provide a written request to remove their Commissioner to the Facilitator during their term (with the knowledge that such request will be made public), the Facilitator has the right to conduct a vote of all Accredited Validators within the organization to determine the status of the Commissioner.
4. There is no prohibition on a Subsidiary President also serving as a Validation Commissioner.

d. Terms

i. Commission seats are held for annual (12 month) terms.

ii. Annual terms begin officially on January 1st and renew every year thereafter on that date. Service by Commissioners prior to that date will not detract from the annual term.

iii. Organizational appointments to the Commission must be submitted to the Facilitator by the Subsidiary President/APO leadership at least 21 days prior to the start of the new term.

iv. There are no term limits, but reappointment every year is necessary.

e. Role of the Chairperson

i. The **Chairman/Chairwoman of the Global Validation Commission ("Chairperson")** is identified as the personification of the Commission's authority. This manifests itself in the Chairperson's ceremonial role as the recognized leader of

the field of validation research, by virtue of their leadership of the field's supreme governing body. The Chairperson is also intended to be the chief spokesperson for Commission decisions, including in response to media inquiries. The ceremonial duties of the Chairperson are in addition to the voting power held by the Chairperson in their capacity as a Commissioner. The Chairperson's voting power is no more or less than other Commissioners.

ii. The Chairperson shall be elected by majority vote from among the Commissioners at the opening meeting of the new term. In the event of a tie vote, the Facilitator will determine the Chairperson from among the tied candidates.

VIII. COMMISSION MEETING PROCEDURES

a. Meeting Logistics

i. Due to language and time barriers, as well as the frequent consideration of new validations, the Commission will meet indefinitely and consider each item on an individual basis.

ii. Commissioners may – through the Facilitator – ask questions of individuals involved in matters up for a vote. Researchers responsible for submitting validations, as well as their Subsidiary/APO leadership, will be notified that their matter is in front of the Commission. All questions and answers will be shown to all Commissioners.

b. Activity Requirement

i. A Commissioner who does not submit a vote for five or more (5+) cases in a 30-day period will be given an Activity Warning. If the Commissioner then fails to submit a vote for three or more (3+) cases in the subsequent 30-day period, the Commissioner will be removed by the Facilitator. If the Commissioner represents a Subsidiary, the Subsidiary President shall appoint a replacement. If the Commissioner represents an APO, the APO shall name the replacement.

c. Initiating Motions

i. A **motion** is a proposal for the Commission to take action. A motion must be put forward by one Commissioner. In the event there are 5 or more Commissioners in attendance, another Commissioner must second the motion to bring it up for discussion. If there are 4 Commissioners or fewer in attendance, the Facilitator is empowered to reject any motion considered by the Facilitator to be dilatory, provided such motion has not been seconded.

d. Required Votes to Pass Motions

i. **See Appendix "Required Votes to Pass Motions"**

e. Recording of Meeting Minutes

i. Given most of the discussion will be done electronically, records will be kept by the Facilitator and held securely on an indefinite basis.

ii. Any such records may only be destroyed/discarded with the written unanimous consent of the Commission. If such consent is granted, the records must still be retained for 365 days following the granting of consent.

IX. VALIDATION PROCEDURES

a. Timeline of the Validation Process

i. Validations must be submitted to the Facilitator within 48 hours of their approval at the Subsidiary/APO level. This submission must include all Required Documents per Minimum Validation Standards. Cases submitted without this information will not advance until the submission is complete. (see Minimum Validation Standards section below)

ii. If approved by the Global Validation Commission, the "validation date" of the case will be the date sent forward from the Subsidiary/APO.

iii. Cases involving living claimants validated by a Subsidiary/APO will automatically enter a 7-day probationary period.

1. The Facilitator may designate a living claimant with **Priority Validation Status** which reduces the probationary period to 5 days.

iv. Cases involving deceased claimants validated by a Subsidiary/APO will automatically enter a 14-day probationary period.

v. During the probationary period, the validation will be shared with the Commission. If a Commissioner wishes to prevent LongeviQuest's recognition of the claimant as validated, the Commissioner must provide notice to the Facilitator of their written intent to lodge a **challenge** against the validation. If the 7-day period expires with no written notice of an impending challenge, the case will be displayed on the LongeviQuest Directory as validated and the claimant will thereby be entitled to all ensuing recognition.

1. The challenging Commissioner must, in their written notice, identify which of the Minimum Validation Standards they perceive the case as not meeting, and why.
2. The written notice of the challenge will be shared with all other Commissioners. Another Commissioner must second the challenge for it to be formally lodged, i.e., voted upon by the Commission. The challenge must be seconded within seven (7) days of the written notice being shared with the other Commissioners. If no other Commissioner seconds the challenge during this time frame, the challenge will not be sustained and will not be up for discussion by the Commission. At this point, the claimant shall be recognized by LongeviQuest as validated, with all accompanying entitlements.
    a. The act of "seconding" a challenge serves only to bring the challenge up for a vote before the Commission, i.e., "lodging" the challenge. The act of lodging or seconding a challenge is procedural; it is unrelated to the Commission's subsequent vote to sustain or overrule the validation. The act of seconding a challenge signifies only that a Commissioner sees justification to apply further scrutiny to a pending case; this action does not force the Commissioner to vote to overrule the validation. All

Commissioners should approach each vote with a willingness to be persuaded by the evidence.

3. Upon the proper seconding of a challenge, the case will be placed on the agenda for the next upcoming Commission meeting. The Facilitator shall notify the relevant Subsidiary President/APO leadership as well as the submitting researchers that the validation is being challenged. The submitting researchers have the right to provide additional documentation to address the specific standard the case is alleged not to meet.
    a. A supermajority (2/3rd) vote of the Commission is required to overrule a validation submitted by an accredited organization/researcher.
4. Commissioners may waive their right to challenge a validation prior to the conclusion of the 7-day period. Upon receiving written confirmation that each Commissioner is waiving their right to challenge, the claimant shall be publicly recognized as validated. Commissioners are encouraged to waive their right to challenge when appropriate to allow for faster recognition of validated claims.
5. Upon formal validation of a claim, a retroactive challenge may be lodged. However, retroactive challenges require two (2) seconds from Commissioners, meaning they must be lodged by a total of at least three (3) distinct Commissioners.
    a. A unanimous vote of the Commission is required to retroactively overrule a validation submitted by an accredited organization/researcher.

vi. Validations submitted by unaccredited organizations/researchers will be individually evaluated by the Commission and are considered unvalidated pending formal discussion of the case.
    1. A supermajority (2/3rd) vote of the Commission is required to approve new validations by unaccredited organizations/researchers.

b. Minimum Validation Standards

i. Minimum Ages for Eligibility

1. Women = 108 years old
2. Men = 108 years old
    a. Men aged 106+ may be included if their validation would grant them the title of oldest living man in a nation.

ii. Required Documents

1. Early life documentation
2. Mid life documentation
3. Late life documentation
4. LongeviQuest Validation Report or equivalent (including ESO reports)

c. Validation Status Classifications

i. **Validated**
ii. **Not Validated**
    1. **Validation Pending**
        a. Cases validated by Subsidiary/APO but not yet through 7-day probationary period.
    2. **Validation Challenged**
        a. These cases would be publicly annotated with a timeline for resolution.
    3. **Unvalidated – Additional Documentation Needed**
        a. These are cases which do not include the Required Documentation or are otherwise seen as lacking evidence to support its meeting of Minimum Validation Standards.
    4. **Unvalidated – Under Review**
        a. These are cases which have not yet been sufficiently evaluated to assign another status.
    5. **Devalidated – Disputed**
    6. **Invalidated – Debunked**

d. Accolades Entitled to Validated (Super)centenarians

i. Inclusion as Validated on the LongeviQuest Directory and, by extension, any external parties who may utilize the data held on the LongeviQuest Directory.
ii. Eligibility for all recognized titles.
    1. Once validated, titles are conferred automatically with no additional validation required.
iii. Validated status to be shared with media organizations, if applicable. (i.e., not anonymous)
    1. Subsequent media outreach if the person later obtains a title.
iv. Validation Certificate provided.
    1. Subsequent certificates provided if the person later obtains a title.
v. Other accolades for select cases validated by LongeviQuest Subsidiaries and APOs.

X. MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

a. All signatories of this Charter recognize the Global Validation Commission as the supreme worldwide authority on longevity validation claims. All researchers pursuing validations under the processes described in this Charter hereby commit to accepting and recognizing validations approved by the Global Validation Commission. All signatories further agree to publicly accept the Commission's rulings on validation status as decisive.

Appendix: Required Votes to Pass Motions

REQUIRED VOTES TO PASS MOTIONS							
Sitting Commissioners:	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
To settle past validation disputes *Majority (50% + 1)*	**2**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**5**
To grant Priority Validation status *Majority (50% + 1)*	**2**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**5**
To update Charter *Supermajority (2/3rd) + Facilitator*	**2** (+ Facilitator)	**3** (+ Facilitator)	**4** (+ Facilitator)	**4** (+ Facilitator)	**5** (+ Facilitator)	**6** (+ Facilitator)	**6** (+ Facilitator)
To **grant** or **remove** accreditation status *Supermajority (2/3rd)*	**2**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6**
To **overrule** a new validation submitted by accredited organization/researcher *Supermajority (2/3rd)*	**2**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6**
To **approve** a validation submitted by **un**accredited organization/researcher *Supermajority (2/3rd)*	**2**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6**
To **approve** granting Commission seat to APO *Supermajority (2/3rd)*	**2**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6**
To **remove** Sitting Commissioner *All Other Commissioners + Facilitator*	**2** (+ Facilitator)	**3** (+ Facilitator)	**4** (+ Facilitator)	**5** (+ Facilitator)	**6** (+ Facilitator)	**7** (+ Facilitator)	**8** (+ Facilitator)
To overrule Facilitator action *Unanimous or Supermajority (see section V.b.ii.1.a)*	**3**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**6**
To formally **lodge** validation challenge on new claim (force a vote by Commission) *Commissioner + Second*	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
To formally **lodge** retroactive validation challenge on past claim (force a vote by Commission) *Commissioner + Two Seconds*	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
To **retroactively overrule** past validation by accredited organization/researcher *Unanimous*	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**