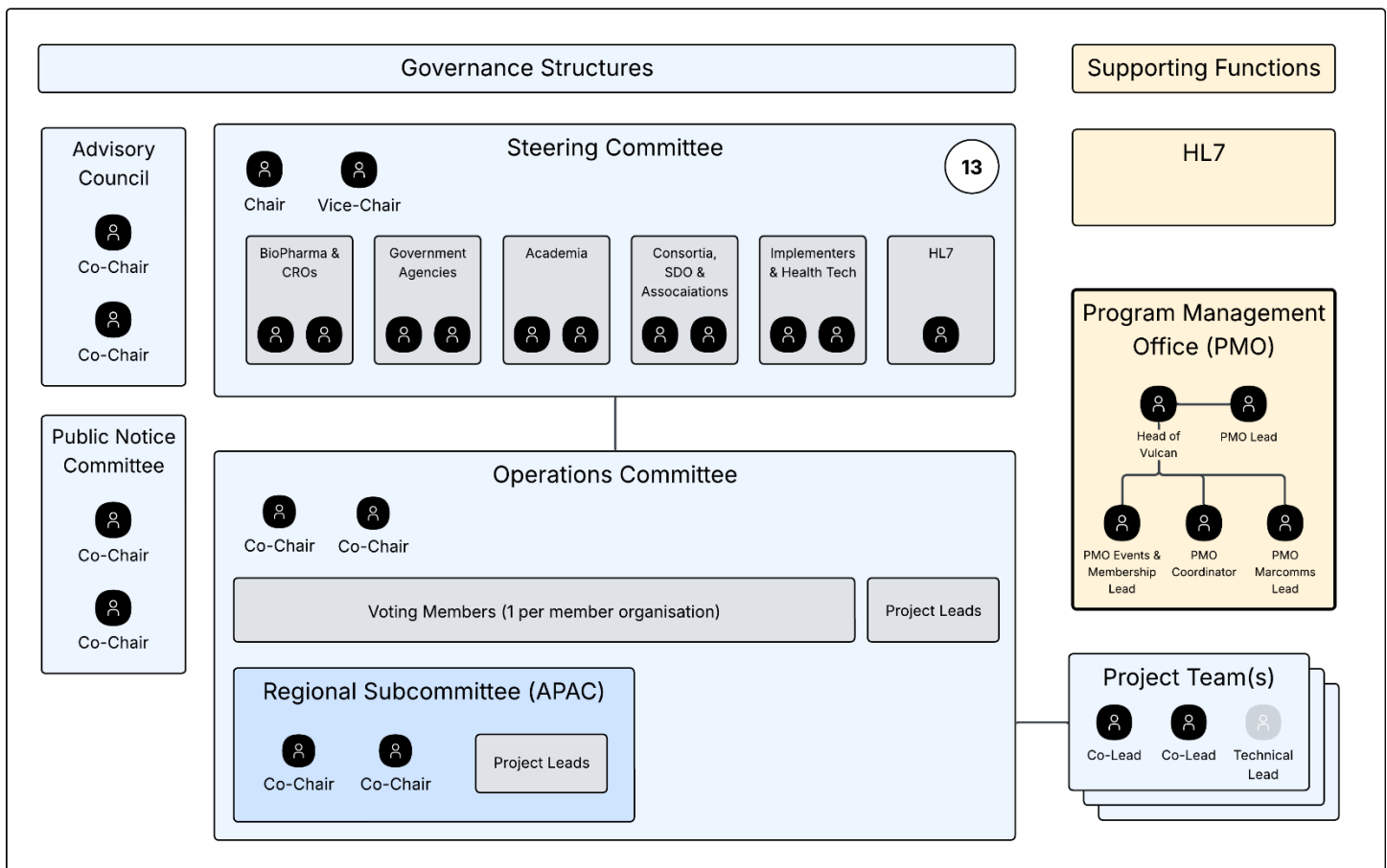# Vulcan Governance Structure

Introduction

The Vulcan Accelerator operates under a structured governance model designed to ensure representation, accountability, and effective decision-making across its ecosystem. This framework enables members, advisors, and operational teams to work cohesively toward Vulcan's mission of advancing the global use of FHIR across the research-to-care continuum.

This document provides a high-level overview of Vulcan's governance structure and the relationships between its core committees. Detailed **Committee Charters** provide information on the specific authority, responsibilities, and operational procedures for each committee. Vulcan's governance model can be summarized as follows:

- **Steering Committee** – Represents member interests, sets strategic direction and ensures governance.
- **Operations Committee** – Supports projects that advance interoperability through HL7 FHIR.
- **Advisory Council** – Provides expert, forward-looking industry and technical insight.
- **Public Notice Committee** – Coordinates Vulcan's responses to regulatory and public consultations.
- **PMO and Project Teams** – Manage day-to-day operations, member engagement, and execution of strategic initiatives.

Governance Structures Overview

Vulcan's governance model is composed of four primary bodies supported by the following functional groups: HL7, the Program Management Office (PMO), and project teams. Each group plays a distinct role in ensuring transparent, coordinated, and effective management of the accelerator's activities.

Steering Committee

Summary:

The Steering Committee serves as Vulcan's central leadership body. It provides strategic oversight, governance, ensures alignment with Vulcan's mission, and represents the collective interests of the membership. Steering Committee candidates are nominated by the voting members and ratified through an online vote.

Key Accountabilities:

- Define and maintain Vulcan's strategic direction and priorities.
- Approve an annual budget and monitor progress against that budget.
- Oversee the Operations Committee, Advisory Council, and PMO.
- Approve the launch of new projects and initiatives in alignment with the strategy and budget.
- Direct high-level operations and ensure compliance with HL7 requirements.
- Engage with the Advisory Council for expert insight and industry perspective.

Advisory Council

Summary:

The Advisory Council is a group of recognized experts across the academic, research, clinical, and technology

domains. Appointed by the Steering Committee, its role is to provide unbiased, forward-looking advice to ensure Vulcan remains aligned with emerging trends, innovations, and best practices.

Key Accountabilities:

- Offer strategic and technical guidance to support Vulcan's long-term direction.
- Identify emerging opportunities, risks, and innovations across the research to care continuum.
- Advise the Steering Committee and Operations Committee when requested.
- Serve as a trusted knowledge resource to support Vulcan's future-readiness.

Operations Committee

Summary:

The Operations Committee represents the Vulcan membership and serves as the primary body for implementing the accelerator's projects. It consists of one voting representative from each member organization, project leads from active projects, and two co-chairs confirmed by the Steering Committee.

Key Accountabilities (Co-Leads & Project Leads):

- Supporting program operations in collaboration with the PMO.
- Implementing initiatives and projects under the direction of the Steering Committee.
- Provide regular updates to the Vulcan membership in collaboration with the PMO.
- Evaluate use cases proposed by the Vulcan membership.
- Monitor project progress, timelines, and deliverables.
- Promote active engagement across the Vulcan community.

Key Accountabilities (Voting Members):

- Represent their organization's interests in Vulcan's decision-making processes.
- Vote on governance changes and amendments to the Vulcan Statement of Understanding (SoU).
- Propose new project use cases that extend HL7 FHIR across the research to care continuum.
- Maintain active participation in committee meetings and initiatives.
- Nominate and vote for candidates for the steering committee.

Public Notice Committee

Summary:

The Public Notice Committee is a specialized group empowered to prepare and issue Vulcan's formal responses to external regulatory consultations, such as FDA Federal Register Notices. Operating under delegated authority from the Steering Committee, it ensures timely, coordinated, and strategic engagement in public policy discussions.

Key Accountabilities:

- Identify and monitor relevant public notices and comment opportunities.
- Develop, review, and finalize Vulcan's official responses.
- Ensure submissions reflect Vulcan's strategic direction and stakeholder consensus.
- Maintain records of all public submissions for transparency and reference.

Supporting Functions Overview

In addition to its core committees, Vulcan's governance is supported by key operational functions

HL7

HL7 provides overarching governance and administrative oversight for the Vulcan Accelerator, ensuring alignment with the broader HL7 ecosystem and compliance with organizational policies.

Program Management Office (PMO)

The PMO is responsible for coordinating Vulcan's day-to-day operations and supporting the execution of strategic initiatives. It serves as a central organizing function that enables effective communication, coordination, and delivery across all committees and project teams. The PMO is composed of several complementary roles:

- **PMO Head**: Provides overall leadership of the PMO, coordinates strategic initiatives, engages with senior partners, and reports to the Steering Committee.
- **PMO Lead:** Oversees project coordination, including timelines, milestones, resources, and budgets, in close collaboration with the PMO Head and Operations Committee Co-Chairs.
- **Marketing Lead:** Manages creation and dissemination of marketing and communications materials across channels and produces graphics and promotional content.
- **Events & Membership Lead:** Oversees Vulcan's participation in events to drive IG adoption and use case generation, engages with members, and manages membership recruitment and retention.
- **PMO Coordinator:** Handles day-to-day operational and administrative tasks, supports planning and execution, maintains technical resources, prepares reports and presentations, and facilitates accelerator meetings.

Project Teams

Project Teams consist of co-leads from member organizations, volunteers, and subject matter experts. They are responsible for developing, testing, and promoting global adoption of HL7 FHIR Implementation Guides and related deliverables that advance Vulcan's mission.

Responsibility for supporting and coordinating Project Teams is shared among the PMO Lead, the Operations Committee Co-Chairs, and the PMO Head. These roles work together collaboratively to ensure alignment with Vulcan's strategy, monitor progress against milestones, and address risks or dependencies as they arise.