



Additional Guidance for Accessing Human GWAS Data

The MalariaGEN Independent Data Access Committee (IDAC) will consider applications to access genotype data generated as a result of the MalariaGEN Consortium activities. Access to data will be granted to qualified investigators for approved research purposes. A qualified investigator is a scientific researcher who is employed, or a student enrolled at, or legitimately affiliated with an academic, nonprofit or government institution, or a commercial company. The IDAC will take the decision as to who is or is not a qualified investigator for the purposes of accessing MalariaGEN data.

Access is conditional upon availability of data and agreement to abide by the terms and conditions set out in the MalariaGEN Data Access Agreement (DAA). IDAC is concerned only with access to the core, anonymised, genotype data generated by MalariaGEN. The IDAC will not consider requests for the more detailed phenotypic information held by the MalariaGEN Consortium and principal investigators. Access to this data would be by arrangement with the relevant principal investigators in accordance with relevant MalariaGEN policies.

The IDAC will consider applications that include collaborators, but each institution must sign a separate DAA. Should qualified investigators wish to share the data with additional collaborators not named in the original application, the collaborators must make a separate application for access to the data.

The IDAC will keep confidential records of all applications, but will supply MalariaGEN with summary data of access requests. The IDAC is charged with monitoring uses made of data by qualified investigators. Data users are required to submit annual reports detailing their use of MalariaGEN data. The IDAC will keep individual investigators' reports of data uses confidential. Summary reports of uses made of data will be made available to relevant MalariaGEN stakeholders, including ethics committees and funders. A brief description of proposed research will be published on the MalariaGEN website, including the name and institution, project title and a brief summary of the research question.

In order to apply for access, you will need to complete both an application form and a DAA. Please note that the DAA is only available in PDF format to ensure that no amendments are made to it. The DAA must include the signature of a person who has appropriate institutional authority. In most cases this can be obtained through your Research or Legal Services Office or equivalent.

If your application is approved by the IDAC, your institution will enter into the DAA with the University of Oxford which manages the MalariaGEN database on behalf of the MalariaGEN Consortium members. The partially signed DAA will be signed on behalf of the University of Oxford and a scanned copy of the fully executed agreement will be returned to you for your records.

Applications for access to data can be submitted at any time. The IDAC will consider applications on a rolling basis and aims to provide a decision on straightforward applications within 2 months of receipt. More complex applications may take longer to review.

Any queries regarding access procedures or completion of the forms should be sent to the IDAC Secretary: malariagen-idac@ethox.ox.ac.uk.