

Life Science Funders Working Together

The Global Biodata Coalition - a vital mission

Scientists around the world are critically dependent on open biodata resources for their research. Spanning genomic, molecular, ecological, morphological and biodiversity data, biodata resources—databases that archive and analyse research data—number in the thousands and are maintained across a diversity of institutions and supported by dozens of funders, forming an essential global infrastructure that allows researchers to share data and generate new scientific knowledge. The most actively used databases are accessed by millions of users each month.

Despite the indispensability of this crucial component of the life sciences many biodata resources lack stable funding and are at risk. With no internationally coordinated plan to develop, maintain, and sustain this infrastructure it remains fragile and under threat. The Global Biodata Coalition (GBC) exists to address this challenge.

Working to safeguard the world's life sciences, biological and biomedical reference data, in perpetuity

Research funding organisations have joined together to better plan for the unprecedented growth of essential biodata resources underpinning all life science, biological, and biomedical research across the world. Foundational biodata resources form a globally distributed infrastructure that must be protected, maintained and secured to enable discovery and innovation by current and future generations of researchers in academia and industry.

GBC Membership

Our work is well underway thanks to financial support from our Members: the National Institutes of Health (US), the National Science Foundation (US), Wellcome (UK), the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (Switzerland), the National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia), the Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council (UK), the Research Council of Norway, Genome Canada, and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (US); and with in-kind support from the the Human Frontier Science Program Organization, and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory; and with the participation of the European Commission, the Indian Council for Medical Research, Inserm, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the European Research Council, the South African Medical Research Council, and the African Academy of Sciences.

Letter of Understanding

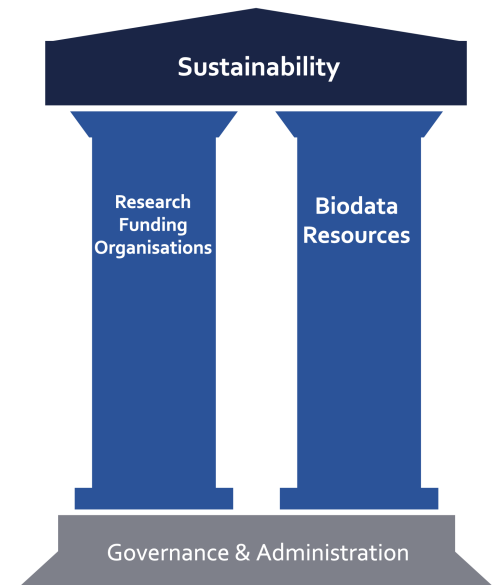
The GBC's Members are signatories to our [Letter of Understanding](#) and acknowledge that, to achieve their vital mission, they must introduce new members to the GBC from a wide range of funding organisations, not limited to large funders at national government level and foundations with an international reach, but also including commercial organisations working in, for example, drug discovery and agritech, as well as philanthropies, institutes and other academic bodies of differing sizes.

Building Sustainability

The GBC works with its two pillar communities - research funding organisations and managers of biodata resources—to develop, explore and implement cooperative models of sustainability.

Current work includes:

- Exploring ways for funders to coordinate among themselves more effectively, developing funding models that will ensure the long-term sustainability of biodata resources.
- Identifying [Global Core Biodata Resources](#) (GCBRs), with a [second selection round](#) taking place in 2023.
- Creating an inventory of the world's biodata resources. A preprint is [available](#).
- Investigating how international coordination of open-access data policies could be better effected, supported, and implemented.



GBC Governance

The GBC is governed by a Board of Funders, comprising representatives of its Member organisations that oversees a distributed Secretariat led by its Executive Director, Dr Guy Cochrane. An independent Scientific Advisory Committee provides advice to the Board.

The GBC is [supported](#) by its Members, and its funds are managed by the Human Frontier Science Programme Organisation (HFSPPO).

Further information: <https://globalbiodata.org/>

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