

Open Letter from the Global Biodata Coalition in support of the sustainable funding of open life science data resources

September 2024

At a pivotal moment in time for the world's biodata infrastructure, individuals who acknowledge the importance of a global effort towards sustaining biodata resources have added their signature to this letter. Join them by adding yours.

Life science data resources are important for broad and diverse stakeholders, including researchers, funders, scientists and policy makers. Through this open letter, members of these stakeholder groups highlight the importance of data resources and note their fragility and uncertain future. They commit to participating, where they can, in the global effort to address these issues and encourage further stakeholders similarly to engage.

Biodata resources — freely accessible life science databases and associated services that are vital to the success of biomedical research — are, without question, essential. The sustainability of the world's biodata resources is central to the continued global research endeavour and to meeting global needs in such areas as health, food security and the preservation of biodiversity. These needs exist for everyone across the world.

Our concern

Currently, funding for global biodata infrastructure is highly fragmented, with limited global coordination. This creates a significant challenge to the scaling up of key biodata resources to support new data types and manage ever-increasing volumes of data; and to maintaining high-quality data standards, ensuring data integrity, and effectively meeting the emerging scientific and technological needs of biodata users in academia and industry. Sustaining the world's biodata into the future is vitally important because advances in life science are potentially at risk if data cannot continue to be curated, stored, maintained, integrated and made openly searchable and retrievable.

Our declaration

We recognise the fragility of the current funding system and the critical importance of sustaining the world's biodata resources for the good of humankind. We support the coming

together, under the auspices of the Global Biodata Coalition, of the many diverse stakeholders that will be required to work in a concerted way to address these challenges. With our collective voice and cooperative efforts we will be a powerful force for positive change in support of the global biodata infrastructure.

About the GBC

The Global Biodata Coalition was formed in 2020 to stimulate and coordinate collective actions to enable the sustainability of biodata resources and the infrastructure they comprise. Our members are representatives of the world's life science funding entities and we work with them to facilitate dialogue and strategic action to meet this objective. We seek to grow our membership, ensuring diverse representation of life science funding organisations drawn from governments, academia, industry and elsewhere.

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