

GCBR Forum — Meeting 9

3 February 2025, 16:00-17:30 GMT

Meeting Summary

The ninth virtual meeting of the Global Core Biodata Resource (GCBR) Forum was held on 3 February 2025. It was attended by 28 representatives from 26 GCBRs, together with members of the GBC Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by GBC Executive Director and Forum co-chair, Guy Cochrane. The key items discussed are summarised briefly below.

[GBC and GCBR Forum: Key priorities for 2025](#)

The GBC Secretariat provided an update on key activities and priorities for 2025. It was noted that the [GBC White Paper](#), “Working cooperatively for global biodata resource sustainability”, had been published in late January, setting out a series of foundational principles for cooperative efforts to advance sustainable funding and several possible models. The White Paper had been developed through a consultative process and had benefited from significant contributions from Forum members. The GBC wishes to use the White Paper as a basis to broaden the conversation around sustainability, and will organise a workshop in Summer 2025 to explore innovative models.

The Secretariat also provided updates on:

- plans regarding future GCBR selection rounds and review of existing GCBRs;
- work to define key elements of sustainability that will be taken forward in partnership with a subgroup of Forum members;
- work to develop impact stories that describe the contributions made by biodata resources to key advances that have benefited society.
- activities to build on the GBC Inventory to further characterise the global biodata resource landscape and the usage and impact of biodata resources.

There was a discussion on the impact of potential changes in US federal funding on biodata resources. Whilst it was agreed that a fuller discussion was premature until more specific details emerged, there was a need for GBC to actively monitor developments and engage its member funders and Forum members.

[Initial planning for joint GCBR Forum and GBC Board of Funders meeting](#)

There was an initial discussion on potential topics for discussion at the first joint in-person meeting of the GCBR Forum and GBC Board of Funders that would be held at the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton, UK on 7-8 October 2025.

Forum Business

Forum members were updated on key ongoing GBC activities, notably:

- An invitation for GCBRs to contribute to an analysis of staff funding horizons across the GCBRS, updating a previous analysis conducted by ELIXIR for its core resources.
- A planned workshop on AI and biocuration at the [Biocuration 2025](#) meeting in Kansas City in April 2025 which was being co-organised by the GBC Secretariat and representatives of several GCBRs.
- The [GBC Open Letter Campaign](#), which launched in November 2024 to highlight the critical importance of biodata resources and their long-term funding and sustainability.

Next Forum Meeting

It was noted that the next virtual meeting of the Forum was planned for 28 April 2025, with a further meeting scheduled for 30 June 2025..