

2023 Driver Project



Global Alliance
for Genomics & Health

Application

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30 April 2023

The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) is the international standards organisation for human genomics, developing technical standards and framing ethical, legal, and social policies to support responsible human genomic data use and interoperability.

More than 500 organisations connected to genomics — across healthcare, research, patient advocacy, industry, and beyond — have signed onto the mission and vision of GA4GH as Organisational Members. Driver Projects are a subset of Organisational Members that lead human genomic data initiatives and have committed resources to guiding GA4GH product development and piloting our products. These real-world research and clinical projects help GA4GH advance a culture of genomic and health-related data sharing and interoperability. Driver Projects also ensure that the standards and policies developed by the eight GA4GH Work Streams are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the broad genomics community.

Any organisation in the world that wishes to advance responsible human genomic data sharing is encouraged to participate in GA4GH. While Driver Projects make a formal commitment and contribution to GA4GH, those groups that don't meet the Driver Project criteria are invited to collaborate in many other ways, such as through a Strategic Partnership or by becoming an Organisational Member.

Driver Projects work alongside other GA4GH partners in the context of Study Groups, Work Streams, and our Implementation Forum to identify needs and priorities for enabling data sharing; provide use cases; contribute to the development of GA4GH products; and implement GA4GH products in practice.

In becoming a Driver Project, initiatives make six formal commitments to GA4GH¹:

1. **Contribute** to the development of at least three (3) [technical products](#)
2. **Implement** at least three (3) technical products
3. **Participate** in foundational [Work Streams](#) (Regulatory & Ethics, Data Security)
4. **Uphold** the [Framework for Responsible Sharing of Genomic and Health-Related Data](#) as well as other [regulatory and ethics frameworks](#) as appropriate
5. **Commit** a total dedicated personnel effort of at least two (2) full-time-employee (FTE) equivalents

¹ Approved 2023 Driver Projects will be expected to sign a formal, non-binding [Driver Project Agreement](#)

6. **Adhere** to GA4GH institutional policies, including the [Standards for Professional Conduct](#), [Copyright Policy](#), and forthcoming Patent Policy

APPLICATION FORM

Please note that we will share these responses with our External Review Board for assessment.

A. PRIMARY APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact name

Contact email

B. PROJECT DETAILS

Project name

Provide a brief summary of the project in lay terms that can be used for public outreach.

150 word limit

Describe the project in terms that would be understandable to a scientifically literate community.

500 word limit

What are the timelines and major milestones for the project?

500 word limit

C. 2023 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Complete the below form to indicate how the project aligns with the four criteria, each of which will be weighted and evaluated equally. Questions about the criteria or the form can be directed to info@ga4gh.org.

1. Expand GA4GH's global geographic footprint.

GA4GH is looking to increase global representation in locations where projects are based and in the populations being studied. Representation is currently low from Asia, Africa, and Central and South America, as well as from indigenous communities worldwide.

1.1. What organisations and/or countries participate in the project, and what is the role of each?

500 word limit

1.2. How, and at what percentage, will underrepresented populations be included in the project's study goals?

500 word limit

1.3. How does or will the project engage with the international community?

500 word limit

1.4. Select the geographic region(s) in which the project is active.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Africa — Central | <input type="checkbox"/> America — North | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia — Southeast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Africa — East | <input type="checkbox"/> America — South | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia — Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Africa — Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Antarctica | <input type="checkbox"/> Australia/Pacific Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Africa — Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia — Central | <input type="checkbox"/> Europe — Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Africa — Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia — East | <input type="checkbox"/> Europe — Western |
| <input type="checkbox"/> America — Central | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia — South | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Europe — UK | | |

2. Advance real-world genomic interoperability.

Driver Projects must be custodians of real-world data, which they are actively working to share with the broader genomics community. The project must commit to making its data available and contributing to a culture of data sharing.

2.1. What type of data does the project collect and/or steward?

500 word limit

2.2. How much data does the project currently maintain, and what is its ultimate target volume?

500 word limit

2.3. How will the project make data available and/or contribute to a culture of data sharing and how will the international health sciences community benefit from the project's data?

500 word limit

2.4. What are the project's most pressing interoperability challenges for which it aims to develop standardised solutions through involvement with GA4GH?

500 word limit

3. Bolster GA4GH's application in global health.

GA4GH Driver Projects must have relevance to an important clinical or health problem and strive to improve the international community's genomic understanding of human disease. Driver Projects represent the broader genomics and health community and should therefore aid in the diagnosis, treatment, or understanding of human health issues.

3.1. How will the project positively affect human health and increase genomic knowledge of disease?

500 word limit

3.2. Select the primary sector(s) in which the project is active.

- ☐ Research — clinical
- ☐ Research — academic
- ☐ Industry — pharma
- ☐ Industry — healthcare
- ☐ Industry — biotech
- ☐ Industry — other (please describe below)
- ☐ Government — other (please describe below)

3.3. Select any other sectors in which the project has relevance

- ☐ Research — clinical
- ☐ Research — academic
- ☐ Industry — pharma
- ☐ Industry — healthcare
- ☐ Industry — biotech
- ☐ Industry — other (please describe below)
- ☐ Government — other (please describe below)

3.4. Select the primary disease and/or research area(s) addressed by the project.

- ☐ Rare disease
- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Common disease
- ☐ Infectious disease
- ☐ Other disease and/or research area(s) — please describe below

3.5. Select any other disease and/or research area(s) relevant to the project.

- ☐ Rare disease
- ☐ Cancer
- ☐ Common disease
- ☐ Infectious disease
- ☐ Other disease and/or research area(s) — please describe below

3.6. Please elaborate on the responses provided for questions 3.4 and 3.5. How does the project address the area(s) indicated?

500 word limit

4. Capacity to contribute to GA4GH activities.

GA4GH Driver Projects must be able to contribute resources to the development of technical standards and policy frameworks and tools. All Driver Projects must participate in both of the foundational Work Streams and at least two of the six technical Work Streams. The sum of a Driver

Project's in-kind contributions to GA4GH product development should equal at least two full-time personnel equivalents (2 FTEs).

4.1. Please provide a high-level explanation of the resources and funding that support the project. Include funder names, grant numbers, timelines, and amounts.

500 word limit

4.2. When will the project be in a position to implement GA4GH standards?

If not in the near term, please explain why the project is nevertheless a strong Driver Project candidate.

500 word limit

4.3. How will you achieve the 2 FTEs requirement?

Experience has shown that the most successful Driver Projects rely on substantial contributions (≥ 0.2 FTE) from multiple affiliated individuals whose GA4GH contributions align with their official responsibilities. These individuals may be software engineers, clinical geneticists, bioethicists, or other experts.

500 word limit

4.4. Please complete the following table of expected personnel contributions to GA4GH.

While this can be amended later, it should provide a reliable estimate of the project's capacity to contribute. An annual review will ensure projects are contributing the expected 2 FTEs.

Driver Project Contributor Details

Type	Name	Email	Dedicated Effort (%)
Driver Project (DP) Champion #1*			
DP Champion #2*			
DP Champion #3 (optional)			
DP Champion #4 (optional)			
Work Stream (WS) contributor #1*			
WS contributor #2*			
REWS contributor*			
DSWS contributor*			
Have additional Work Stream, REWS, DSWS, or other contributors? Add rows as necessary			

*Required

You may list as many contributors as you wish for Work Streams, the Regulatory and Ethics Work Stream (REWS), the Data Security Work Stream (DSWS), and other. No more than four DP Champions may be listed.