

THE BIOELECTRICAL IMPEDANCE ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL DATABASE (BIAID)

Governance and Publications Policy

The BIAID is a collaborative scientific initiative designed to compile and harmonize bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) datasets from multiple international research groups.

The database aims to support:

- methodological harmonization of BIA measurements
- development of reference data across populations
- high-quality collaborative research on body composition and related physiological parameters

This document establishes the governance structure and publication procedures governing the use of BIAID data.

1. Governance Structure

The BIAID is coordinated by a Management Group, responsible for:

- evaluating research proposals requesting access to the database
- ensuring compliance with data governance and ethical standards
- coordinating collaborative analyses and publications
- safeguarding the scientific integrity of the database.

The Management Group may consult external experts or advisory members when necessary.

2. Access to the Database

Researchers wishing to use BIAID data must submit a research proposal describing the intended analyses.

Access to the database requires:

- Approval of the proposed analysis by the BIAID Management Group, and
- Signature of the [BIAID Data Use Agreement Form](#)

Only the variables required for the approved analysis will be shared upon receiving the signed BIAID Data Use Agreement Form.

3. Data Governance and Confidentiality

Researchers accessing BIAID data must comply with the following principles:

- Data must be used exclusively for the approved scientific purpose and all researchers using the data must agree and sign the terms of the BIAID Data Use Agreement Form.
- Data must not be shared with third parties without prior authorization from the Management Group.
- Data must be stored securely in accordance with institutional data security policies.
- Under no circumstances may BIAID data be used to attempt identification of individual participants.
- All data use must comply with applicable ethical standards and data protection regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) where relevant.

4. Research Proposal Submission

Research proposals should be submitted to biainternational@fmh.ulisboa.pt. The proposals should include:

- title of the study
- research objectives
- analytical approach
- variables required
- list of investigators involved
- expected timeline

The Management Group will evaluate proposals considering:

- scientific merit
- methodological feasibility
- potential overlap with ongoing analyses.

Applicants will normally receive a decision within four weeks.

5. Management of Approved Analyses

Once a proposal is approved, researchers may begin the analysis.

If a manuscript draft is not provided to the management group within 18 months, the proposal may be removed from the list of planned analyses, unless an extension request is submitted.

6. Authorship and Dataset Contributors

Researchers who contributed datasets to the BIAID retain intellectual recognition for their contributions.

When a study uses specific datasets from the database:

- Dataset contributors will be invited to participate as co-authors, provided they agree and meet authorship criteria.
- The management steering committee will decide the appropriate authorship contribution from the wider management group.
- Authorship must follow internationally accepted standards such as ICMJE guidelines.

7. Circulation of Manuscripts

Before journal submission, draft manuscripts should be circulated to:

- the BIAID Management Group, and
- dataset contributors involved in the analysis.

Contributors should provide comments within 21 days. If no response is received within this timeframe, authors may proceed with submission without the contributors' co-authorship.

8. Acknowledgement of the Database

All publications using BIAID data must acknowledge the database and cite the reference publication "Silva et al., European Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 2023; <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41430-023-01310-x>" and preferably in the title and/or abstract make reference to the BIA International Database.

Relevant funding sources supporting the database should also be acknowledged where applicable.

9. Open Science and Publication Policy

Researchers are encouraged to publish results derived from the BIAID following open science principles.

Article processing charges and additional fees (submission fee, extra pages or colored figures), must be covered by the research group performing the analysis. The BIAID will publish a reference link to the paper on the website

10. Conflict Resolution

Disputes concerning:

- authorship
- dataset use
- overlapping analyses
- interpretation of publication policy

will be reviewed by the BIAID Management Group. Decisions will be guided by principles of scientific integrity, transparency, and fair recognition of contributions.

12. Policy Updates

This Governance and Publications Policy may be updated periodically by the Management Group. Depositing data open access must be approved in advance with the management group, because not all contributing studies are eligible to open access.

Updated versions will be communicated to all participating investigators.