

# Global Core Biodata Resources Webinar for Applicants

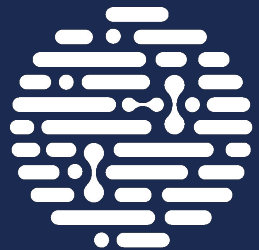
@globalbiodata

Chuck Cook

Rachel Drysdale

David Carr

GBC Secretariat



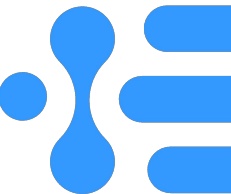
GLOBAL  
BIODATA  
COALITION

22nd and 23rd February 2023

# Housekeeping

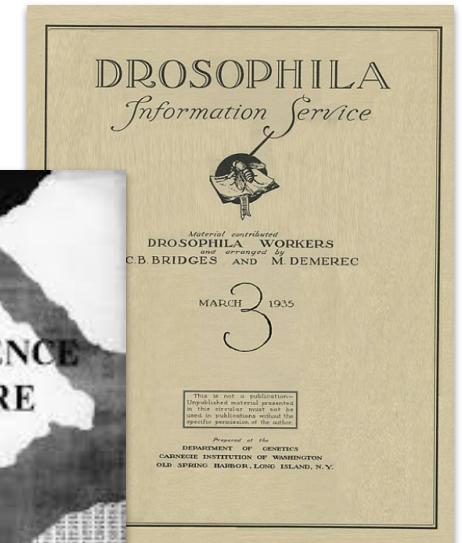
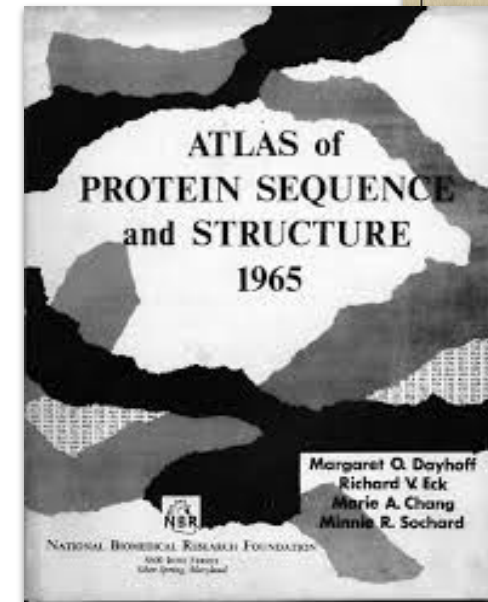
- The video is being recorded and will be made available via the GBC website after the presentation
- Attendees will be muted throughout, and video thumbnails will be turned off
- Questions entered into Q&A box will be addressed after the main presentation
- Please use the chat function to highlight any administrative issues at any time

We hope you enjoy the webinar



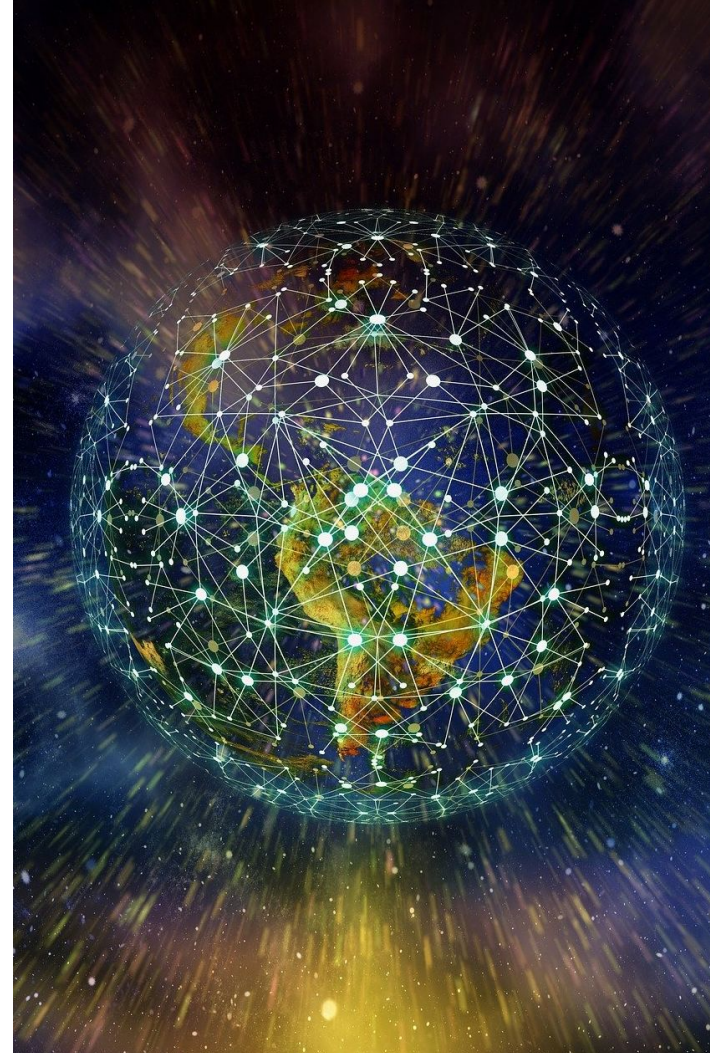
# Biodata resources

- Life sciences: long history of sharing data
- Archive primary life sciences research data  
Specialist repositories
- Added-value curation/analysis of primary data
- Extensive collaboration and data exchange
- 1,000's of resources



# Biodata resources: a crucial global infrastructure

- Crucial
  - The healthy ecosystem of biodata resources underlies biological, life sciences & biomedical research
  - Essential - ubiquitous use in research, biotech, pharma
- Distributed
  - Scientist-led
  - Efficient sharing of research data
- Cost effective
  - Data reuse vs regeneration of data
- Expanding
  - Global science is increasingly data-intensive
  - Scalable infrastructure will promote growth
- Under threat
  - No international coordination of the infrastructure



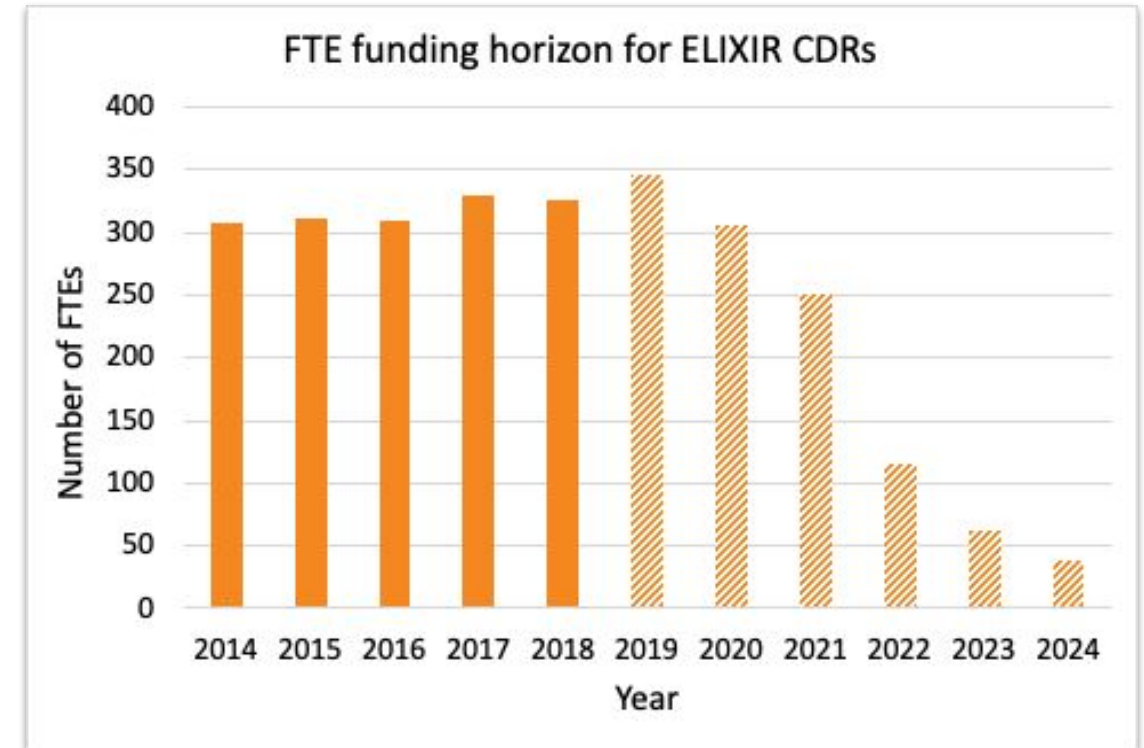
# Challenges to the biodata infrastructure

## Demands increasing

- Increasing rate of data generation increases demand
- Open access policies increase demand
- New technologies require new data resources

## Sustainability challenges

- Funding has been haphazard, short term, and distributed unsystematically
- There is little global coordination among funders of these resources
- This global research infrastructure is not managed as an infrastructure



<https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btz959>

# Establishing the Global Biodata Coalition

- **2015** *Nature* perspective “Sustaining the big data ecosystem” - need for funder collaboration
- **2016-18** Series of meetings: funders, biodata resource managers, biodata resource users
- **2016** Affirmation from Heads of International Research Organisations (HIROs)
- **2017** Steering group established, *Nature* note “A global coalition to sustain core data”
- **2018-19** Seed funding NIH, NSF, Wellcome, A\*Star
- **2019** Launch: secretariat, website, logo, Letter of Understanding
- **2020** Scientific program initiated
- **2021** Scientific Advisory Committee appointed
- **2022** Executive Director appointed
- **2022** Global Core Biodata Resources Selection



# The Global Biodata Coalition

## Members



National Human Genome  
Research Institute



Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council



Chan  
Zuckerberg  
Initiative



Forskningrådet  
The Research Council of Norway

EMBL



The African  
Academy of Sciences



GenomeCanada

Funds managed through the Human  
Frontier Science Program Organization



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI

## Observers

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (Singapore)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

European Commission

European Research Council

Indian Council for Medical Research

Inserm (France)

Japan Agency for Science and Technology

Korean National Institutes of Health

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (Canada)

Royal Society Te Apārangi (New Zealand)

South African Medical Research Council

- Letter of understanding
  - Support for Global Biodata Coalition
  - Commitment to work towards sustainable biodata resources
- Drive for more funding organisations as members
- Drive for greater diversity and global spread of funding organisation types



# GLOBAL BIODATA COALITION

The Global Biodata Coalition (GBC) is a forum for research funders to better coordinate and share approaches for the efficient management and growth of biodata resources worldwide. The

GBC aims to stabilize and ensure sustainable financial support for the global biodata infrastructure and has identified a set of Global Core Biodata Resources that are crucial for sustaining the broader biodata infrastructure.

Discover the benefits



<https://globalbiodata.org/>





# GBC work program

- 1) Describing the biodata infrastructure
  - Inventory of global biodata resources
  - **Global Core Biodata Resources**
- 2) Knowledge exchange
  - Funder working groups



# Global Core Biodata Resources



GLOBAL  
CORE  
BIODATA  
RESOURCE

“**fundamental importance** to the wider **biological and life sciences community** and the **long term preservation of biological data**”

and

“show **high levels of usage, scientific quality and service**”

- provide **free and open access** to their data
- are **used extensively** both in terms of the **number** and **distribution** of their users
- are **mature** and **comprehensive**
- are are considered **authoritative** in their field
- are of **high scientific quality**
- provide a **professional standard** of service delivery.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7468719>



# The Global Core Biodata Resources list - four examples

Name	Overview	Funders, 2017–2022
<b>Host Countries:</b> Primary, Additional		
<b>Alliance of Genome Resources</b> USA, Canada, UK	The primary mission of the Alliance of Genome Resources (the Alliance) is to develop and maintain sustainable genome information resources that facilitate the use of diverse model organisms in understanding the genetic and genomic basis of human biology, health and disease.	US National Institutes of Health (NIH)
<b>BacDive</b> Germany	BacDive is the worldwide largest database for standardized bacterial information. Its mission is to mobilize and integrate research data on strain level from diverse sources and make it freely accessible.	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
<b>BRENDA</b> Germany	BRENDA is the main collection of enzyme functional data available to the scientific community.	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
<b>ChEBI</b> UK	Chemical Entities of Biological Interest (ChEBI) is a freely available dictionary of molecular entities focused on 'small' chemical compounds.	European Commission, EMBL, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

<https://globalbiodata.org/scientific-activities/global-core-biodata-resources/>

# Why focus on Global Core Biodata Resources?

- Global Core Biodata Resources are fundamental for the entire biological, life sciences & biomedical global infrastructure
- Global Core Biodata Resources are analogous to keystone species in an ecosystem
- Focus on Global Core Biodata Resources will help protect the entire global infrastructure

# Defining GCBRs will provide benefits 1

- **For researchers** selecting repositories to archive their primary data, to comply with funders' and publishers' open data requirements, GCBR status will provide confidence in their choices.
- **For funding agencies and science publishers**, the availability of recognised lists of GCBRs will help them recommend suitable data repositories and reliable sources of information to their grantees and authors, with confidence.
- **For individual funding agencies** faced with applications for support from multiple (and sometimes competing) data resources, a list of GCBRs and the criteria that characterise them will provide insight into the established data resource ecosystem, in turn providing useful context for local decision making.



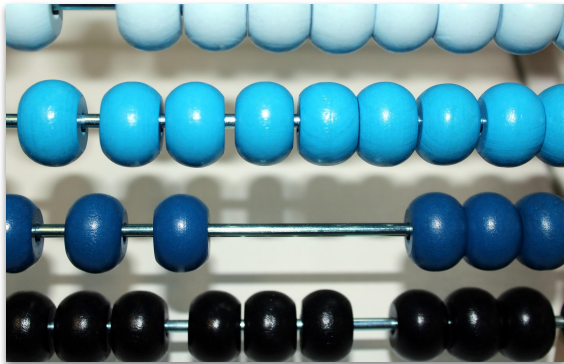
# Defining GCBRs will provide benefits 2

- **For developing data resources**, GCBRs will provide examples of good practice that can inform the development of their own data resources.
- **For data resources defined as GCBRs**, the GCBR community will provide opportunities for sharing expertise, driving collaboration, and - within the context of the GBC - exploring potential solutions to the challenge posed by their precarious funding.
- **For all stakeholders, including private enterprise** - open data stimulates research and drives data re-use and discovery. Working toward GCBR status inspires data resources to implement more permissive open data licenses to more fully reflect the FAIR principles.

# Indicators for Global Core Biodata Resources

Indicators are:

Quantitative ....



and Qualitative

“Not everything that can be counted counts,  
and not everything that counts can be counted”

William Bruce Cameron\*

Indicators are used to inform the peer review process

The peer review process brings expert judgement

\*1963, Informal Sociology, a casual introduction to sociological thinking. Page 13, Random House, New York.

# Indicators - Five Categories

Indicator Category
1: Scientific focus and quality of science
2: Community served by the resource
3: Quality of service
4: Funding, governance and legal infrastructure
5: Impact stories

# Indicators - Category 1

## 1. Scientific focus and quality

1a. Deposition database and/or Knowledgebase

1b. Scope statement

1c. Global dimension

1c i. Operation

1c ii. Users/contributors

1d. Staff effort

Includes the inherent scientific quality of the data and metadata, the resource's uniqueness and comprehensiveness, whether the resource is a recognised authority, and whether the resource is of fundamental importance to the broad life science community and the long-term preservation of data.

# Indicators - Category 2

## 2. Community

2a. Data resource usage - quantitative data

2b. Usage in research as measured through data resource citation in the scientific literature

2c. Citation of key publications describing the data resource

2d. Connections to other data resources

Reflects the size and the measured demand of the communities that are served by the resource in several dimensions, and includes web statistics, user reach, citation data and global usage data.



# Indicators - Category 3

## 3. Quality of service

3a. Identifier use

3b. Data volume

3c. Technical performance:

3c i. Uptime

3c ii. Response times of key web pages

3c iii. Back-up and disaster recovery

3d. Use of standards

3e. Documentation

3e i. Data Curation

3e ii. Provenance and Evidence

3e iii. Quality Assurance

## 3. Quality (continued)

3f. Data availability

3f i. Data sharing services

3f ii. Data sharing formats

3g. User support

3g i. Helpdesk

3g ii. User feedback

3g iii. Training

3g iv. Communications

3g v. Language

Service levels, reliability, and technical performance, use of data and metadata standards, data availability, provenance compliance and user support.

# Indicators - Category 4

## 4. Funding, governance and legal infrastructure

4a. Funding

4b. Scientific Advisory Board

4c. Data preservation

4d. Open Science

4e. Privacy policy

4f. Ethics policy

Covers the funding provision, governance and legal footing, including open science licensing, and privacy and ethics policy considerations.

# Indicators - Category 5

<b>5. Impact stories</b>
5a. Accelerating science
5b. Counterfactual

Includes evaluation of how effectively the data resource is meeting the needs of the scientific community via counterfactual and accelerating science stories.

Descriptions of all 23 Indicators by which the Global Core Biodata Resources will be selected can be found in the materials listed at the end of this presentation.

# The GCBR 2023 selection process - announcement

## THE GLOBAL BIODATA COALITION TO HOLD A 2023 ROUND OF SELECTION OF GLOBAL CORE BIODATA RESOURCES

Feb 13, 2023

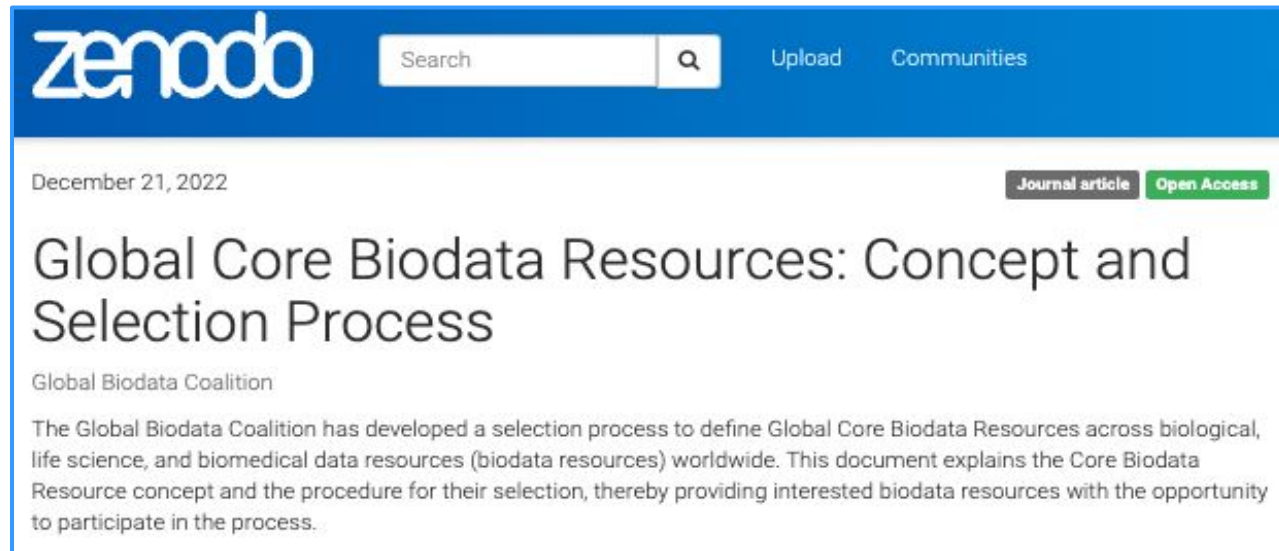
The [Global Biodata Coalition](#) (GBC) is pleased to announce a second round of selection of [Global Core Biodata Resources](#), that will run throughout 2023.

“Background information and instructions for applicants can be found on the [Global Core Biodata Resource Selection 2023](#) web page and in the paper “[Global Core Biodata Resources: Concept and Selection Process](#)”

<https://globalbiodata.org/gcbr-2023-process-launch/>

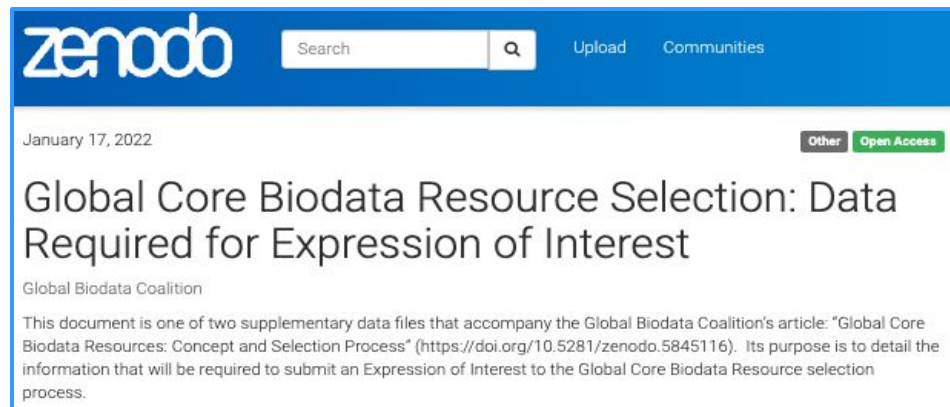
# The GCBR 2023 selection process - articles

The primary paper - <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7468719>

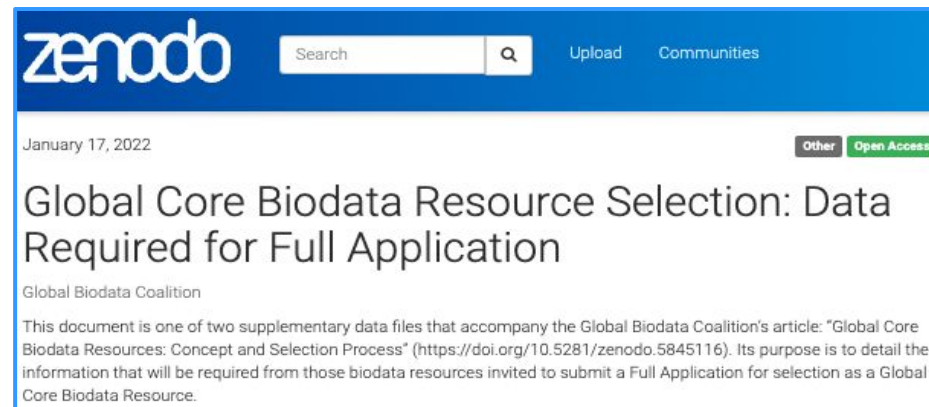


The screenshot shows the Zenodo interface for a document. At the top, there is a blue header with the Zenodo logo, a search bar, and links for 'Upload' and 'Communities'. Below the header, the document is dated 'December 21, 2022' and has two tags: 'Journal article' and 'Open Access'. The title is 'Global Core Biodata Resources: Concept and Selection Process' by the 'Global Biodata Coalition'. The abstract states: 'The Global Biodata Coalition has developed a selection process to define Global Core Biodata Resources across biological, life science, and biomedical data resources (biodata resources) worldwide. This document explains the Core Biodata Resource concept and the procedure for their selection, thereby providing interested biodata resources with the opportunity to participate in the process.'

The two supplementary data documents: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5846742> and [/zenodo.5846758](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5846758)



The screenshot shows the Zenodo interface for a supplementary document. At the top, there is a blue header with the Zenodo logo, a search bar, and links for 'Upload' and 'Communities'. Below the header, the document is dated 'January 17, 2022' and has two tags: 'Other' and 'Open Access'. The title is 'Global Core Biodata Resource Selection: Data Required for Expression of Interest' by the 'Global Biodata Coalition'. The abstract states: 'This document is one of two supplementary data files that accompany the Global Biodata Coalition's article: "Global Core Biodata Resources: Concept and Selection Process" (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5845116). Its purpose is to detail the information that will be required to submit an Expression of Interest to the Global Core Biodata Resource selection process.'



The screenshot shows the Zenodo interface for a supplementary document. At the top, there is a blue header with the Zenodo logo, a search bar, and links for 'Upload' and 'Communities'. Below the header, the document is dated 'January 17, 2022' and has two tags: 'Other' and 'Open Access'. The title is 'Global Core Biodata Resource Selection: Data Required for Full Application' by the 'Global Biodata Coalition'. The abstract states: 'This document is one of two supplementary data files that accompany the Global Biodata Coalition's article: "Global Core Biodata Resources: Concept and Selection Process" (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5845116). Its purpose is to detail the information that will be required from those biodata resources invited to submit a Full Application for selection as a Global Core Biodata Resource.'



# Selection is a two-stage process

1. Expressions of Interest:
  - Description
  - Eligibility Criteria
  - Short Answer questions

**Review Committee will decide the applicants to be invited to the Full Application stage**

2. Full Application: Detailed questions about the complete set of 23 indicators used for Global Core Biodata Resource selection.

**Review Committee will decide which data resources they recommend to be included in the initial list of GCBRs. The review committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the GBC Board of Funders for the formal final decision.**

# Expression of Interest - 3 sections

## Section 1 - Description of Biodata Resource

**D1:** Concise description of your biodata resource, addressing how it falls within scope as a Global Core Biodata Resource (200 words)

**D2:** Is this biodata resource.....

A deposition database serving as a repository of record for a specified data type(s)?

or

A knowledgebase where, for example, expert manual curation adds value?

**D3:** Consortium context (100 words)

# Expression of Interest - 3 sections

## Section 2 - Eligibility Criteria

10 Yes/No questions regarding

- data resource maturity and stability
- ability to provide quantitative usage data
- metadata and standards
- data availability and format
- governance
- open data policy

The purpose of the Eligibility Criteria is to focus the applicant's attention on the factors required to qualify for GCBR status, and enable them to judge whether continuing with their application is worth their investment

For the complete list of EC questions see:

Global Core Biodata Resource Selection: Data Required for Expression of Interest

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5846742>

# Eligibility Criteria - examples

**EC2:** Is the resource able to provide usage statistics covering the scale of users and a statement of geographic distribution of users?

*To qualify as a Core Biodata Resource it needs to be able to demonstrate global usage beyond the country in which the data resource is housed, at scale.*

**EC5:** Does the resource have a Scientific Advisory Board or equivalent formal advisory body?

*A dedicated advisory body will be required for eligibility.*

**EC6:** Does the biodata resource have an open data licence with no requirement for permission from a data access committee or other authority for access to the resource or data within?

*An open data license will be required for eligibility, e.g. Creative Commons licenses CC0, CC-BY or CC-BY-SA are all conformant with the Open Definition (<http://opendefinition.org/licenses/>).*

For the complete list of EC questions see:

Global Core Biodata Resource Selection: Data Required for Expression of Interest

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5846742>

# Expression of Interest - 3 sections

## Section 3 - Short Answer Questions

Five questions relating to the alignment of the data resource with the goals of the GBC and the characteristics of the resource - in terms of the Indicators introduced above - that qualify it to be considered a GCBR.

Answers given in Section 3 will be assessed in terms of how well they indicate that the biodata resource is suitable to progress to the Full Application stage. i.e. does the answer to each question suggests that this biodata resource has a realistic chance of attaining GCBR status, for the corresponding indicators.

# Expression of Interest - 3 sections

## Section 3 - Short Answer Questions - 200 words

**SA1:** How does the resource serve as a fundamental resource across scientific approaches and disciplines, rather than for example serving a specific project or field of research?

**SA2:** Approximately how many users access the data resource per year? Please explain the basis for the count given, and include a statement addressing the geographical distribution of the users.

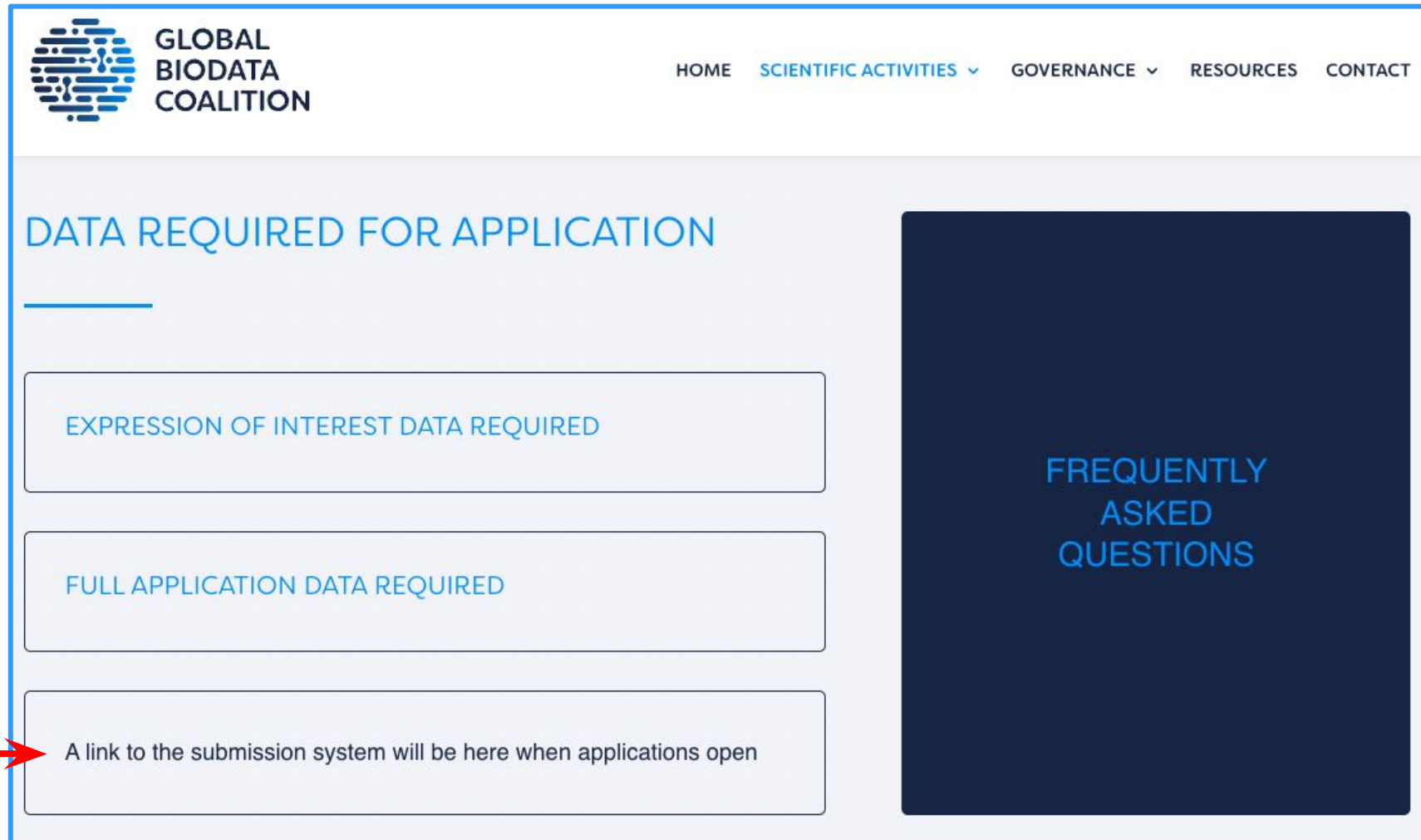
**SA3:** What would be the impact on other data resources and/or on the biodata resources ecosystem were this data resource to be withdrawn from service?

**SA4:** How does the data resource support users? Examples might include a help desk, user training or workshops or social media Q&A.  
What opportunities for gathering user feedback do you provide?

**SA5:** What management structure and governance measures are in place for the data resource?  
Is there a dedicated resource manager? How frequently does the oversight committee meet?  
What is the relationship between the data resource and the host institution?



# How do I submit an Expression of Interest?



The screenshot shows the Global Biodata Coalition website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: HOME, SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES (with a dropdown arrow), GOVERNANCE (with a dropdown arrow), RESOURCES, and CONTACT. The main content area is titled "DATA REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION" and contains three stacked boxes: "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DATA REQUIRED", "FULL APPLICATION DATA REQUIRED", and a box with the text "A link to the submission system will be here when applications open". To the right of these boxes is a dark blue box with the text "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS".

Interval for Applications is April 11th until May 8th

Submission system entry point will be **HERE** →

<https://globalbiodata.org/scientific-activities/global-core-biodata-resources/gcbr-selection-2023/>



# Review process

Operationally similar to that used by funding agencies in selecting proposals for research grant funding.

Reviewers:

- The GBC Scientific Advisory Committee
- Experts in biodata resource management
- Reviewers do not include the GBC Secretariat

Reviewers will sign:

- Confidentiality statement
- Conflict of Interest declaration

# Expression of Interest Timeline

Date	Action
13th February 2023	News announcement for the 2023 round of Global Core Biodata Resource selection published <a href="#">here</a> . FAQ for potential applicants is available <a href="#">here</a> .
22nd-23rd February 2023	Outreach - Webinars with Q&A session for potential applicants
11th April 2023	Submission of expressions of interest opens
8th May 2023 23:59 UTC	Deadline for submission of expressions of interest
Week of 19th-23rd June 2023	Expression of interest review committee meets to determine which data resources will be invited to proceed to full application
3rd July 2023	Notification of outcome of expression of interest to submitters

Timeline: <https://globalbiodata.org/scientific-activities/gcbr-selection/>

# Full Application Timeline

Date	Action
28th Aug-1st Sep 2023 To be confirmed*	Webinar for those data resources invited to submit a formal full application
4th Sep-1st Oct 2023 To be confirmed*	Submission window for full applications
30th Oct-13th Nov 2023 To be confirmed*	Reporting of reviewer scores and comments to submitters: followed by a 2 week opportunity to respond
20th-24th Nov 2023 To be confirmed*	Full application review committee meets to generate recommendations for selection
Q4 Board meeting: 4th–13th Dec 2023 To be confirmed*	GBC Board approves decision for inclusion in list of GCBRs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Applicants formally notified of outcome</li><li>● Announcement of the amended GCBR list - GBC web site, news release...</li></ul>

Timeline: <https://globalbiodata.org/scientific-activities/gcbr-selection/>

# References

Global Core Biodata Resources: Concept and Selection Process

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7468719>

Global Core Biodata Resource Selection: Data Required for Expression of Interest

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5846742>

Global Core Biodata Resource Selection: Data Required for Full Application

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5846758>

GCBR 2023 selection web page

<https://globalbiodata.org/scientific-activities/global-core-biodata-resources/gcbr-selection-2023/>

GCBR 2023 selection process FAQ web page

<https://globalbiodata.org/scientific-activities/global-core-biodata-resources/gcbr-selection-2023/faq-2023/>

These slides will be deposited in the GBC Zenodo channel when webinars are concluded

<https://zenodo.org/communities/gbc/>

# Further Reading: the 2022 round of GCBR Selection

GLOBAL BIODATA COALITION ANNOUNCES THE FIRST SET OF GLOBAL CORE BIODATA RESOURCES

<https://globalbiodata.org/global-biodata-coalition-announces-the-first-set-of-global-core-biodata-resources/>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BLOG: ON THE GCBR ANNOUNCEMENT

<https://globalbiodata.org/executive-directors-blog-on-the-gcbr-announcement/>

Summary of 2022 GCBR selection process and outcomes - slides

<https://globalbiodata.org/wp-content/uploads/The-GCBRs-a-summary-selection-process-2022.pdf>

# Contact

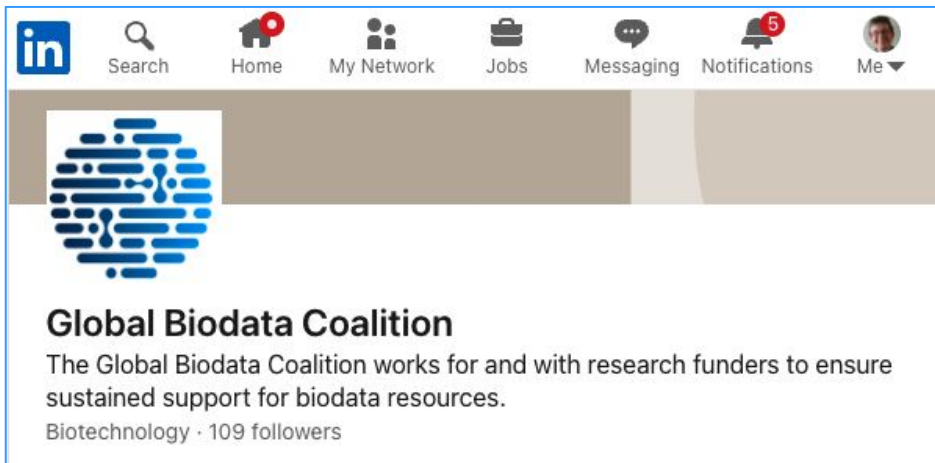
For Questions and Clarifications about GCBR selection process:

Email: [gcb-selection@globalbiodata.org](mailto:gcb-selection@globalbiodata.org)

For general communications with the GBC:

Email: [info@globalbiodata.org](mailto:info@globalbiodata.org)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-biodata-coalition/>



<https://twitter.com/globalbiodata>

