

Communications guidelines for approved researchers accessing the UK Biobank database

At UK Biobank our mission is to enable scientific discoveries that improve human health. We are delighted that you have chosen to use UK Biobank's database in your research.

These guidelines are to ensure researchers who wish to write and publish their studies, reports and press releases correctly represent and accredit UK Biobank.

Using UK Biobank's name and logo

In general, you are welcome to use the UK Biobank name and logo (available on request) in your communications and reports if you are an approved researcher or scientist undertaking health research using UK Biobank data that is in the public interest.

Approval of reports by UK Biobank is not required, but UK Biobank does request that you let us know and provide a copy at least 2 weeks prior to the date of publication as a courtesy.

By keeping the UK Biobank communications and access team informed of your publications we can make health research findings accessible to our participants and the wider general public. If you think your report is likely to attract public attention then this will also give us an opportunity to prepare for media enquiries, and when necessary inform participants.

All publications should include the acknowledgement, "This research has been conducted using data from UK Biobank, a major biomedical database" and where appropriate, include a link to the UK Biobank website: www.ukbiobank.ac.uk

Researchers should also include their UK Biobank project ID number in research papers and presentations, so that it is possible to match research findings to approved research and lay summaries found on the UK Biobank website.

Background on UK Biobank

When citing UK Biobank in your writing or communications, please ensure you use the following information to guide your language:

UK Biobank is a large-scale biomedical database and research resource containing genetic, lifestyle and health information from half a million UK participants.

UK Biobank's database, which includes blood samples, heart and brain scans and genetic data of the 500,000 volunteer participants, is globally accessible to approved researchers who are undertaking health-related research that's in the public interest.



UK Biobank recruited 500,000 people aged between 40-69 years in 2006-2010 from across the UK. With their consent, they provided detailed information about their lifestyle, physical measures and had blood, urine and saliva samples collected and stored for future analysis.

UK Biobank's research resource is a major contributor in the advancement of modern medicine and treatment, enabling better understanding of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses – including cancer, heart diseases and stroke. Since the UK Biobank resource was opened for research use in April 2012, over 20,000 researchers from 90+ countries have been approved to use it and more than 2,000 peer-reviewed papers that used the resource have now been published.

UK Biobank is generously supported by its founding funders the Wellcome Trust and UK Medical Research Council, as well as the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, Northwest Regional Development Agency and Scottish Government. The organisation has over 150 dedicated members of staff, based in multiple locations across the UK.

You can find out more about UK Biobank at <http://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk>

Quotes from UK Biobank

If you would like to include a quote from UK Biobank to include in your report or communication materials you can make a request to Sanctuary Counsel at ukbiobank@sanctuarycounsel.com

Please be advised we will not always be able to honour this request.

How UK Biobank uses your information

UK Biobank is a public resource and as such is keen to promote use of the resource by highlighting findings on its websites and elsewhere – so that participants and other scientists can find out how it is being used. All approved applications to use the resource are published on the UK Biobank website. This means that scientists could at any time thereafter be approached by journalists or members of the public about their work.

Additional requests

Any request to use the name of UK Biobank in a way that falls outside of these guidelines should be made in writing to Sanctuary Counsel, advisers to UK Biobank, at ukbiobank@sanctuarycounsel.com or on 0207 340 0399.

Thank you for your compliance with these guidelines.