

SSGAC Data Access Policy

This document updates the SSGAC Data Access Policy from 2013.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear, transparent and administratively simple framework for the data-sharing of the meta-analysis results of the SSGAC. The policy tries to strike a reasonable balance between three objectives: (1) to reward researchers who contributed to papers published under the auspices of the SSGAC for the substantial investments that went into gathering and analyzing the data, (2) to encourage follow-up research in general and collaboration within the consortium in particular, and (3) to keep administrative hurdles at a minimum.

1. Availability of results in the public domain

The SSGAC posts the combined meta-analytic results of GWAS initiatives on its website (<http://www.thessgac.org/#!/data/kuzq8>). The data will be posted shortly after the manuscript that reports the main findings has been published and the press embargo of the publisher has been lifted. To protect subject confidentiality, we do not release the actual sample allele frequencies, but report allele frequencies from an appropriate reference panel instead.

The SSGAC should be mentioned in the resulting paper and the relevant publication of the original results should be cited appropriately.

2. Follow-up projects that require subsets of publicly available results

Many follow-up projects will require that certain cohorts are excluded from the meta-analysis results. We will provide such results upon request via email to the organizers of the SSGAC (contact (at) ssgac.org). The request should contain a short, informal description of the follow-up project. The file with meta-analytic results will be delivered in a format that exactly mirrors the publicly available data (i.e., no minor allele frequencies and no additional variables).

3. Follow-up projects that require additional information than those that are publicly available

For all projects that do not simply use the publicly available results or a version of those results with a subset of cohorts removed, we ask for a short description of the required data and its intended use. Requests should be send via email to the organizers of the consortium (contact (at) ssgac.org).

4. Authorship and acknowledgments on follow-up projects

For follow-up projects that fall under sections 2. or 3., we will ask that the consortium is properly acknowledged (e.g. by listing the SSGAC as a banner co-author or including a statement in the acknowledgments that “this research was facilitated by the Social Science Genetic Association Consortium (SSGAC)”). In addition, we would appreciate if individual co-authorship is offered to individuals who are involved in facilitating the additional analysis required for such follow-up projects.

5. Similar proposals from different groups

If multiple groups independently submit a similar proposal, we will encourage cooperation of the groups by connecting the investigators and alerting them to the overlap in their proposals.

The Social Science Genetic Association Consortium (SSGAC)

26 March 2016