

eMERGE Network

Criteria for Affiliate Membership

The eMERGE Network is open to all academic, government and private sector scientists who are interested in participating in an open process to facilitate genomic research in biorepositories with electronic medical records and application of genomic results to clinical care, and who agree to the criteria for participation described below.

Benefits of joining the eMERGE Network include:

- Access to eMERGE data prior to public release
- Access to Network-developed tools and guidelines, both published and beta versions
- Shared expertise in multidisciplinary areas
- A rich collaborative environment with Network Sites

Clinical Affiliate - Criteria for Participation in the eMERGE Network are:

1. Each participant will inform the NHGRI and the eMERGE Network Steering Committee about his/her group's research plans.
2. Each participant will specify the genotyping, phenotyping, and clinical implementation components of his/her proposed project:
 - a. Genotyping: Each participant will agree to submit genome-wide genotyping data on phenotyped participants with appropriate covariates to the eMERGE Coordinating Center for cleaning, merging, and analysis with the eMERGE network-wide dataset and submission to dbGaP.
 - b. Phenotyping: Each participant will agree to: 1) develop and disseminate for eMERGE-wide validation new electronic phenotyping algorithms; 2) validate phenotyping algorithms from other eMERGE sites; and 3) apply validated eMERGE phenotype algorithms to its genotyped subjects. Resulting phenotyping data will be submitted with appropriate covariates to the eMERGE Coordinating Center for cleaning, merging, and analysis with the eMERGE network-wide dataset, and submission to dbGaP.
 - c. Clinical implementation: Each participant will agree to share its clinical implementation strategies with other eMERGE sites for potential collaboration and adoption, and will collaborate and adopt implementation strategies of other sites as appropriate and feasible.
3. Each participant is expected to contribute significantly to the project, bringing his/her particular expertise to bear on accomplishing the goals of the Network in a timely manner. Participation in the Network should consist of more than submission of data to the Network and should include substantial intellectual contributions to the Network.
4. Each participant will adhere to Network policies, guidelines and agreements.
5. Each participant will take part in group activities, including attending Steering Committee meetings and working group calls and contributing to the products of these groups.
6. Each participant will agree that s/he will not disclose confidential information obtained from other members of the Network.

Additional criteria may be added upon recommendations of the eMERGE Steering Committee, External Scientific Panel, and NHGRI.

Non-Clinical Affiliate - Criteria for Participation in the eMERGE Network are:

1. Each participant will inform the NHGRI and the eMERGE Network Steering Committee about his/her group's research plans/project concept.
2. Each participant is expected to fully engage Network investigators in the joint development and execution of the research/project.
3. Each participant will adhere to Network policies, guidelines and agreements.
4. Each participant will take part in group activities, including attending Steering Committee meetings, working group calls, or contributing to the products of these groups as related to their interests or their research plans/project concepts.
5. Each participant will agree that s/he will not disclose confidential information obtained from other members of the Network.

Additional criteria may be added upon recommendations of the eMERGE Steering Committee, External Scientific Panel, and NHGRI.

Affiliate Membership application process:

An investigator who is interested in applying for affiliate membership to the eMERGE Network should provide a description of no more than three pages of work he or she proposes to conduct as part of the Network, as well as a statement of agreement to abide by the Criteria for Participation listed above, to the eMERGE Coordinating Center Staff for appropriate dissemination. Items that should be included in the description of proposed work and that will be used to evaluate acceptance into the Network are:

1. **Clinical Applicants:** A concise plan, including specification of the available genotyping data, existing and planned phenotyping, and clinical implementation projects proposed and a rationale for how the proposed research efforts address the goals of the eMERGE Network.
Non-Clinical Applicants: A concise research summary, including data requested from the eMERGE Network, specification of the available genotyping data, existing and planned phenotyping, and clinical implementation projects proposed and a rationale for how the proposed research efforts address the goals of the eMERGE Network.
2. Evidence that the proposed projects are consistent with participants' informed consent and the research has received appropriate IRB approvals.
3. Evidence of funding to conduct the proposed research.
4. An agreement to abide by the eMERGE Data Use Agreement and data submission policies.
5. An agreement to participate fully in eMERGE Network activities, or for Non-Clinical Applicants, an agreement to participate in eMERGE Network activities related to their project.
6. An agreement to fully engage Network investigators in the joint development and execution of the research/project.

The description will be reviewed by the eMERGE Steering Committee, NHGRI staff, and the eMERGE External Scientific Panel to determine whether an investigator will be accepted into the Network.

Evaluation for Clinical Affiliate Membership will include a determination that:

- The required genomic datasets are available;
- The applicant has the requisite expertise to participate fully in the Network;
- The number of algorithms (preferred minimum = 2, more are desirable) the applicant will be willing to implement warrants Network affiliate membership;
- The quality and accessibility of EMR data is commensurate with current members; and
- The diversity of the applicant's subject population enriches the Network.

Evaluation for Non-Clinical Affiliate Membership will include a determination that:

- The required data/expertise requested in the partnership is available;
- The applicant has the requisite expertise to lead the research/project; and
- The research/project is of interest to and within scope of the Network.

The participation of affiliate members will be reviewed yearly by the Steering Committee, NHGRI staff, and the External Scientific Panel.

Last update: 12/3/14