

GoDMC Terms of Reference

Goal, aims and objectives

The overarching goal of GoDMC is to bring together researchers with an interest in studying the genetic basis of DNA methylation variation, consolidate as many resources and expertise as possible and thereby expedite this field of research. With this in mind the following aims and objectives have been set out:

- a. To encourage collaborations for rapid large-scale replication and meta-analyses following a conventional genome-wide association study (GWAS) consortium structure.
- b. To provide an online forum to publicise potential data sources and on-going studies.
- c. To prioritise the analysis of Illumina HM450K BeadChip and GWAS data in the first instance (and other bisulphite modified DNA methylation data in due course).
- d. To include all tissue types and disease/phenotypic subgroups.

In order to achieve these aims the following Terms of Reference have been developed and must be agreed upon by all relevant individuals contributing to and utilising the resource.

Consortium members

In addition to possessing the relevant data (i.e. Illumina HM450K Beadchip and ideally GWAS SNP data) consortium members must be:

- a. Committed to take part in collaborative studies to identify genetic variation associated with DNA methylation.
- b. Committed to provide samples or to carry out additional genotyping/methylation mapping for replication studies (if for example, both HM450 and GWAS data are not available).
- c. Committed to contribute to the development of data harmonisation and analysis methods relevant to interrogating the genetic basis of DNA methylation variation using data from multiple sources.
- d. Willing to abide by the GoDMC Code of Conduct when taking part in such collaborative studies.

Executive Committee (PIs)

Oversight of GoDMC will be provided by the Executive Committee comprising Prof. Caroline Relton, Dr. Jordana Bell, Dr. Christoph Bock, Dr. Bas Heijmans & Prof. Jonathan Mill. In addition to making the above commitments the Executive Committee will:

- a. Promote GoDMC, its aims and objectives, and identify new opportunities for development.
- b. Provide and maintain a forum to encourage and aid collaborations for replication/meta-analysis studies.
- c. Promote and encourage best practice in data harmonisation and analysis methods developed through GoDMC.
- d. Contribute to the development of good working relationships between collaborators by, for example, providing an appropriate code of conduct to which all members must abide.
- e. Identify funding opportunities to aid replication and meta-analysis studies and to ensure appropriate use/distribution of such funds.
- f. Meet regularly (twice a year) to discuss all matters relating to GoDMC and feedback any relevant information to all consortium members.

Steering committee

A steering committee comprising Professors Andrea Baccarelli, Stephan Beck, George Davey Smith, Mark McCarthy, Peter Visscher and Dr. Nicole Soranzo has also been established to:

- a. Support and advise the Executive Committee on ways to promote and develop GoDMC.
- b. Support and advise the Executive Committee on ways to maintain good working relationships between all members and PIs.