Phenotype database (dbXP)

A quick start to store your study information in dbXP
Please realize that this is the first version of this document and that the study capture tool is still in development.

Through the studies menu you can either create, view or import studies (or study data). 'Create a new study' will guide you through several steps (described below) to include your study into the system. Question marks will explain what information is required. You can (quick)save your study to complete it at another point in time, or use 'import study data' to import large datasets (for example: many subjects) from an excel sheet into your study (see below). Data from different platforms (assays) can be linked to your study (e.g. metabolomics clinical chemistry etc.).

General note:
Templates are available at all steps of the create study wizard. With these templates you can define the information you want to store on your study. If other fields are essential for your study you can request additional field by emailing a template administrators.

Create a new study:
Step 1: Define the basic properties of your study
   Choose appropriate template.
   Fill out the fields, fields indicated by a green arrow are obligatory. In some browsers (Firefox 4, Safari and Chrome) fields can be enlarged by dragging the indicated (lower right) corner of the text field. Use next to go to the next step (at the bottom of the page) or 'quick save' your study.

Step 2: Add subjects to your study
   Do not fill out if an excel file is used to upload the data (Studies → Import study data, see below). If you use the wizard for this step, report the number of subjects in your study and choose the template. Then add these subjects to your study and fill out the required information in the table.

Step 3: Define all events that occur in your study
   Any treatment, challenge or occurrence in your study can be defined in the events step. An event is defined as anything that happens to subject(s) in your study that is not resulting in a sample. Often more then one event should be defined for one study. All types of study design can be stored by using the grouping functionality in the first column of the events table, which appears after you have added the event. Do not forget to include each event in at least one group, otherwise it cannot be linked to subjects. If events are alike they can be duplicated using the button before the start time.
   Next: Assign subjects to event groups
   The sample events should be used to define when and how samples are taken within the study. Sampling events are defined as events that lead to measurements on your subjects (including measurements of weight at several times in the study). From the combination of sampling events, subjects and groups, the system will automatically create samples.
   Choose the appropriate sample template. Each sampling event should be added separately.

Step 3a: Include subject in event groups
   Include the subjects in the correct groups using the tick boxes.

Step 4: Samples
   The samples are generated; fill out the empty fields where necessary.

Step 5: Assays
   Add assays to your study; e.g. metabolomics on a LCMS platform. Do not forget to indicate both the template (e.g. metabolomics assay) and the module (e.g. metabolomics module).
   Next: Assign samples to assays
   Indicate which assays were performed on which samples.

Step 6: Confirmation
   Check your data, corrections can be made by going back to the corresponding steps in the wizard.

Step 7. Done
   You can view the study, edit the study again or create a new study.

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Import study data

First check whether the correct template is available for your data-type; e.g. a human subject template with all the required fields for your study. The excel sheet should have this format: every study, subject, sample or event has its own row. It does not matter in what column which information is stored, as you can map the field in the template on the columns in your excel sheet. It does not matter how many headers are included in your excel sheet, as you can define in which row the first subject/ sample or event can be found.

Step 1: Import file

Choose your excel file for import, the correct template and fill out the fields.

Step 2: Assign properties

Map the information in your excel sheet on the field in the template using the dropdowns. If the correct property is missing, send a request to a template administrator.

Step 3: Add information

Add information to the table where necessary.

Step 4: Confirmation

Check whether the information is correctly mapped and store you study.