

Using the Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud (PDC):

Obtaining Access Credentials FAQ



It's very important that a PDC user is the only one who logs in with an account. If you have members of your lab that would like to participate in this research, we ask that they each get separate accounts on the PDC. Having an account used by a single prescribed user is an important step in keeping the PDC secure and protected.

Before your account is created on the Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud (PDC), you'll need the following credentials:

- 1) an eRA Commons account
- 2) dbGaP access
- 3) TCGA access for your research project
- 4) dbGaP / TCGA access assigned to all researchers in your Lab requiring access to the PDC

What follows are detailed instructions for gaining each of those credentials.

Getting an eRA Commons Account

You can learn more generally about eRA Commons and how to register your organization or institution at: http://era.nih.gov/commons/faq_commons.cfm#IV1

A list of other helpful links to learn more about the eRA Commons process include:

Main eRA Commons access:

<https://public.era.nih.gov/commons/public/>

Helpful Steps for Navigating eRA Commons:

http://era.nih.gov/commons/steps_commons.cfm

NIH / eRA Helpdesk/Ticketing System:

<http://era.nih.gov/help/index.cfm#era>

NOTE: If you're working with an academic institution, they can often help navigate this process.

Getting dbGaP Access

- 1) To get authorized access start at this site:
<https://dbgap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/aa/wga.cgi?page=login>
- 2) Login to the webpage above and follow the instructions.
- 3) You will probably complete form SF 424, which will have the section listed in 4. below.
- 4) Under the Research Plan Attachment there are 2 sections. Below is some sample text you can use to fill out this application for access to TCGA data.

Research use statement:

[ENTER SHORT DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT/ANALYSIS INTENDED]

The [ENTER PROJECT NAME] will be utilizing the technical capabilities of the Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud (PDC) to analyze multiple TCGA datasets.

The PDC is a secure FISMA compliant biomedical cloud with an NIH trusted partner status that includes approved access to dbGAP TCGA data for distribution to approved authorized users. It is a project that is building a cloud computing resource for the research community so that authorized researchers can manage, analyze and share large quantities of protected human genomic data in a secure and compliant fashion. The Bionimbus PDC is designed to hold both controlled access data (e.g. Level 1 BAM files from CGHub) and open access data (e.g. de-identified clinical data from the TCGA Data Coordination Center). The cloud computing model allows researchers immediate access to data and computational resources without the burden of maintaining numerous servers and large repositories of sensitive data in a local facility. This is especially important for projects such as The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), which currently has about 500 terabytes of Level 1 data and is projected to grow to multiple petabytes. The PDC will provide the capability to complete the proposed analysis on an expedited, compressed schedule.

Non-technical summary of Research use statement:

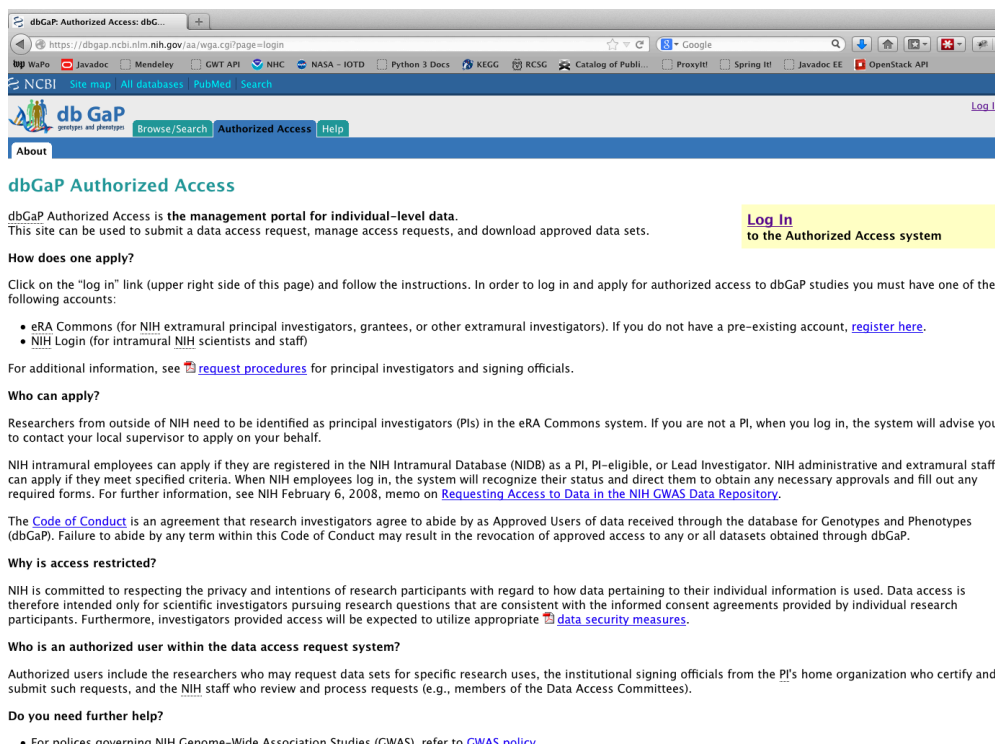
The proposed analysis of [ENTER PROJECT NAME AND POTENTIAL RESULTS SOUGHT] will be expedited using the Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud (PDC).

The Bionimbus PDC is a project that is building a cloud computing resource for the research community so that authorized researchers can manage, analyze and share large quantities of protected human genomic data in a secure and compliant fashion. With the Bionimbus PDC, users can login and have immediate access to data from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) that they are authorized to view as well as computational resources so that they can easily analyze the data without first downloading it.

Getting TCGA Access for Your Research Project

1) Once you have access to dbGaP, go to the dbGaP login page and login in the upper right with your eRA Commons username and password:

<https://dbgap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/aa/wga.cgi?page=login>



The screenshot shows the dbGaP Authorized Access page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'About', 'Browse/Search', 'Authorized Access', and 'Help'. Below this, the page title is 'dbGaP Authorized Access'. The main content area explains that this is the management portal for individual-level data and provides instructions on how to apply for access. It lists two account types: eRA Commons and NIH Login. A yellow box on the right contains a 'Log In' button and the text 'to the Authorized Access system'. Below the main text, there are sections for 'Who can apply?' and 'Why is access restricted?'. The page also includes a 'Warning Notice' at the bottom.

dbGaP Authorized Access

dbGaP Authorized Access is the management portal for individual-level data. This site can be used to submit a data access request, manage access requests, and download approved data sets.

Log In
to the Authorized Access system

How does one apply?

Click on the "log in" link (upper right side of this page) and follow the instructions. In order to log in and apply for authorized access to dbGaP studies you must have one of the following accounts:

- eRA Commons (for NIH extramural principal investigators, grantees, or other extramural investigators). If you do not have a pre-existing account, [register here](#).
- NIH Login (for intramural NIH scientists and staff)

For additional information, see [request procedures](#) for principal investigators and signing officials.

Who can apply?

Researchers from outside of NIH need to be identified as principal investigators (PIs) in the eRA Commons system. If you are not a PI, when you log in, the system will advise you to contact your local supervisor to apply on your behalf.

NIH intramural employees can apply if they are registered in the NIH Intramural Database (NIDB) as a PI, PI-eligible, or Lead Investigator. NIH administrative and extramural staff can apply if they meet specified criteria. When NIH employees log in, the system will recognize their status and direct them to obtain any necessary approvals and fill out any required forms. For further information, see NIH February 6, 2008, memo on [Requesting Access to Data in the NIH GWAS Data Repository](#).

The [Code of Conduct](#) is an agreement that research investigators agree to abide by as Approved Users of data received through the database for Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP). Failure to abide by any term within this Code of Conduct may result in the revocation of approved access to any or all datasets obtained through dbGaP.

Why is access restricted?

NIH is committed to respecting the privacy and intentions of research participants with regard to how data pertaining to their individual information is used. Data access is therefore intended only for scientific investigators pursuing research questions that are consistent with the informed consent agreements provided by individual research participants. Furthermore, investigators provided access will be expected to utilize appropriate [data security measures](#).

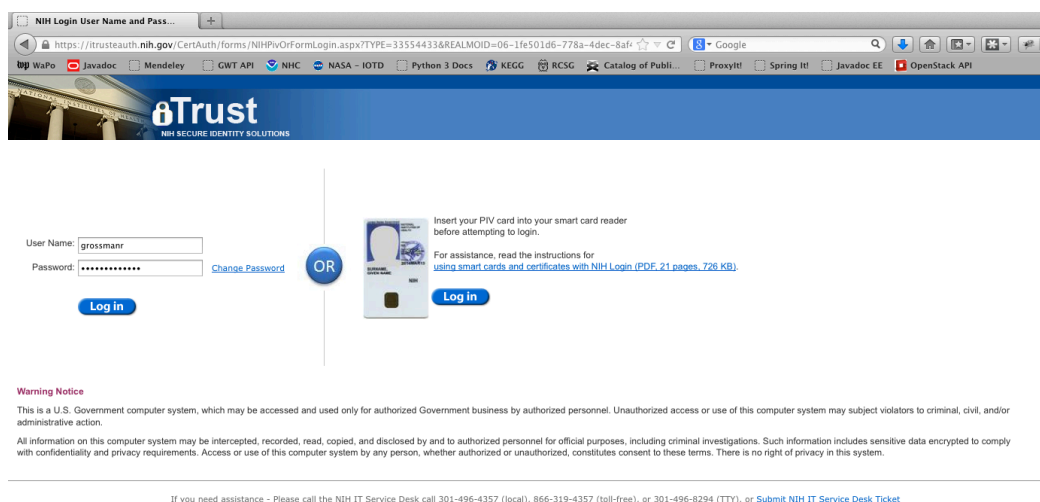
Who is an authorized user within the data access request system?

Authorized users include the researchers who may request data sets for specific research uses, the institutional signing officials from the PI's home organization who certify and submit such requests, and the NIH staff who review and process requests (e.g., members of the Data Access Committees).

Do you need further help?

- For policies governing NIH Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS), refer to [GWAS policy](#)

2) This will take you to the NIH Secure Identity Solutions Login Page:



The screenshot shows the NIH Secure Identity Solutions Login Page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'User Name and Pass...', 'eTrust', and 'NIH SECURE IDENTITY SOLUTIONS'. Below this, the page title is 'eTrust'. The main content area contains a login form with fields for 'User Name' and 'Password'. There's a 'Log in' button and a 'Change Password' link. To the right of the form, there's a section for smart card login with a 'Log in' button. Below the login form, there's a 'Warning Notice' section. At the bottom, there's a footer with contact information and logos for CIT, NIH, and the Department of Health.

NIH Login User Name and Pass...

[User Name](#) and [Pass...](#)

[eTrust](#)

NIH SECURE IDENTITY SOLUTIONS

User Name:

Password:

[Change Password](#)

[Log in](#)

OR

Insert your PIV card into your smart card reader before attempting to login.

For assistance, read the instructions for [using smart cards and certificates with NIH Login \(PDF, 21 pages, 726 KB\)](#).




[Log in](#)

Warning Notice

This is a U.S. Government computer system, which may be accessed and used only for authorized Government business by authorized personnel. Unauthorized access or use of this computer system may subject violators to criminal, civil, and/or administrative action.

All information on this computer system may be intercepted, recorded, read, copied, and disclosed by and to authorized personnel for official purposes, including criminal investigations. Such information includes sensitive data encrypted to comply with confidentiality and privacy requirements. Access or use of this computer system by any person, whether authorized or unauthorized, constitutes consent to these terms. There is no right of privacy in this system.

If you need assistance - Please call the NIH IT Service Desk call 301-496-4357 (local), 866-319-4357 (toll-free), or 301-496-8294 (TTY), or [Submit NIH IT Service Desk Ticket](#)

3) From here, you'll see the "My Projects" page. Here you can create a new research project (follow the required steps after hitting "Create New Research Project") or revise your project to request TCGA access ("Revise Project" link on the right):

NIH Genotype and Phenotype database is a service of NCBI. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.
 National Center for Biotechnology Information | U.S. National Library of Medicine
[Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Accessibility](#)

4) You can check and see if your Research Project has TCGA access by going to the "My Requests" tab. You should see "Approved" under the status.

NIH Genotype and Phenotype database is a service of NCBI. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.
 National Center for Biotechnology Information | U.S. National Library of Medicine
[Privacy Notice](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Accessibility](#)

5) If you do not see TCGA as approved under your research project, choose the "Datasets" Tab, select "TCGA", click "Add Selected and Continue" at the bottom of the page, and walk through the required steps.

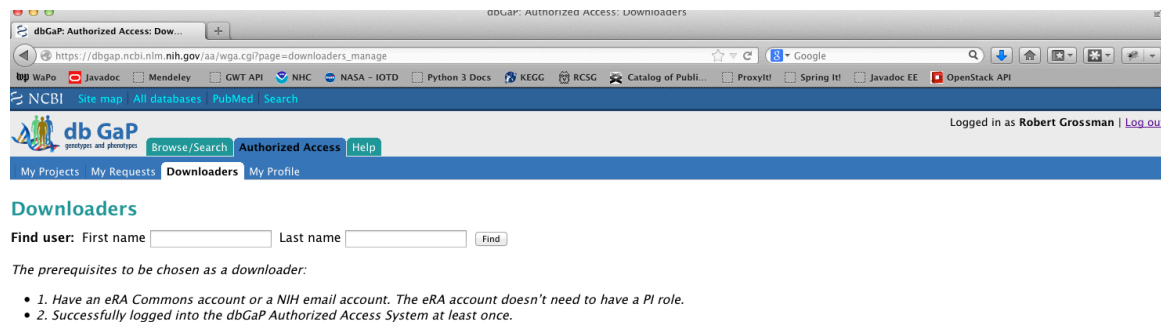
Please select datasets to request access to. If you have changed any common information (research statement, list of collaborators), all approved application and those being reviewed by DAC(s) will need to be resubmitted.

For any study that has more than one consent group, there are no overlaps in subjects between the consent groups.

Consent Group	Data Use Limitations	Participants	DAR Status
A Genome Wide Scan of Lung Cancer and Smoking (phs000093.v2.p2) <input type="checkbox"/> Research related to adult diseases and methods (phs000093.v2.p2.c1), CGEMS	The informed consent document signed by the PLCO study participants allows use of these data by investigators for discovery and hypothesis generation in the investigation of the genetic contributions to cancer and other adult diseases as well as development of novel analytical approaches for GWAS.	1629	
<input type="checkbox"/> Research related to smoking or lung disease (phs000093.v2.p2.c2), CGEMS	Use of the dataset is limited to scientific genetic research related to the etiology, molecular basis, and outcome of lung disease and smoking.	3937	
A Genome-Wide Association Study of Peripheral Arterial Disease (phs000203.v1.p1)			

Granting access to Individuals in your Lab

1) Once you have an accepted research project and TCGA access, you can give access to other members of your lab who will require PDC accounts. To do so, go to the “Downloaders” tab:



dbGaP: Authorized Access: Dow...

https://dbgap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/aa/wga.cgi?page=downloaders_manage

NCBI Site map All databases PubMed Search

db GaP genotypes and phenotypes

Browse/Search Authorized Access Help

My Projects My Requests Downloaders My Profile

Downloaders

Find user: First name Last name Find

The prerequisites to be chosen as a downloader:

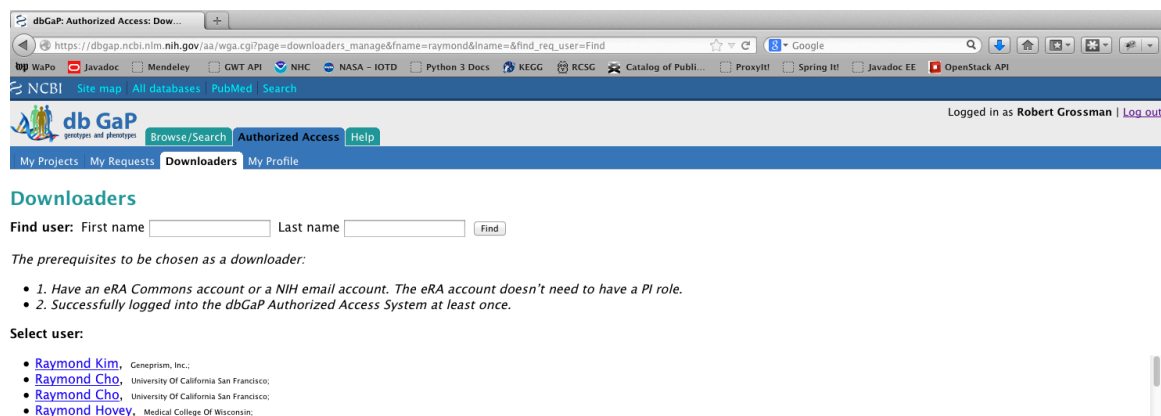
- 1. Have an eRA Commons account or a NIH email account. The eRA account doesn't need to have a PI role.
- 2. Successfully logged into the dbGaP Authorized Access System at least once.

Downloaders on your projects:

Project	Remove Role
Raymond Powell	X
#5296: Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud	X
Allison heath	X
#5296: Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud	X
Leonie Misquitta	X
#5296: Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud	X
Matthew Greenway	X
#5296: Bionimbus Protected Data Cloud	X

2) The person you are giving access to must a) have an eRA Commons account and b) have successfully logged into the dbGaP Authorization System at least once using their eRA (<https://dbgap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/aa/wga.cgi?page=login>)

Use the “Find User” fields for First Name and Last Name. The Lab member should come up in the list. NOTE: There’s a small scroll bar on the right that you can easily miss.



dbGaP: Authorized Access: Dow...

https://dbgap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/aa/wga.cgi?page=downloaders_manage&fname=raymond&lname=&find_req_user=Find

NCBI Site map All databases PubMed Search

db GaP genotypes and phenotypes

Browse/Search Authorized Access Help

My Projects My Requests Downloaders My Profile

Downloaders

Find user: First name Last name Find

The prerequisites to be chosen as a downloader:

- 1. Have an eRA Commons account or a NIH email account. The eRA account doesn't need to have a PI role.
- 2. Successfully logged into the dbGaP Authorized Access System at least once.

Select user:

- Raymond Kim, Geneprim, Inc.;
- Raymond Cho, University Of California San Francisco;
- Raymond Cho, University Of California San Francisco;
- Raymond Hovey, Medical College Of Wisconsin;

3) Select their name, and add them to the project, hit “Set Downloader”

dbGaP: Authorized Access: Dow...

https://dbgap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/aa/wga.cgi?page=downloaders_manage&pid=8181&filter=pid

Google

WuPo Javadoc Mendeley GWT API NHC NASA - IOTD Python 3 Docs KEGG RCGS Catalog of Publi... ProxyIt! Spring It! Javadoc EE OpenStack API

NCBI Site map All databases PubMed Search

db GaP
genotypes and phenotypes

Browse/Search Authorized Access Help

Logged in as Robert Grossman | Log out

My Projects My Requests **Downloaders** My Profile

Downloaders

Find user: First name Last name

The prerequisites to be chosen as a downloader:

- 1. Have an eRA Commons account or a NIH email account. The eRA account doesn't need to have a PI role.
- 2. Successfully logged into the dbGaP Authorized Access System at least once.

Give downloader role to:

Renuka Arya

Email: rarya@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

Phone: 2242504293

Organization(s): University Of Chicago;

For project(s):