

# Mallory A Freeberg, PhD

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*Who I Am* Community Builder. Human Data Sharing Expert. Metadata Enthusiast. Open Science Advocate.

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*Professional Experience* **EMBL European Bioinformatics Institute**, Cambridge, UK  
*Coordinator*, European Genome-phenome Archive Jun 2021 - present

- Contribute expertise to help establish the Federated EGA Network for transnational discovery of and access to sensitive human data ([blog post](#))
- Engage with external partners and stakeholders to ensure human data submission, discovery, and distribution services align with community standards and data protection regulations
- Manage up to 14-person team responsible for operating production data archive services ([publication](#))

*Project Lead*, UK Biobank, European Genome-phenome Archive Aug 2019 - May 2021

- Oversaw data flow to archive 500,000 whole human genomes totalling 12PB of data
- Built and led 3-person team to successfully distribute 4PB of data to cloud-based analysis platform

*Senior Bioinformatician*, Human Cell Atlas Data Coordination Platform Oct 2017 - Jul 2019

- Coordinated data wrangling work for 6-person team across UK- and US-based institutions
- Performed curation and ingestion of flagship HCA datasets into the Platform
- Developed HCA metadata standard for cellular-resolution transcriptomics data ([publication](#))

**Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD USA  
*Trainer*, Galaxy Training Network, The Galaxy Project Jan 2017 - Sep 2017

- Designed and delivered seven Galaxy training workshops in three countries ([publication](#))
- Created training materials and computational workflows to support reproducible transcriptomics research ([contributions](#))

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow*, Department of Biology Jun 2015 - Sep 2017

- Investigated post-transcriptional gene regulatory networks using neural networks
- Piloted Oxford Nanopore direct RNA sequencing protocols to catalog transcriptomes

*Education* **PhD Bioinformatics**, University of Michigan, USA May 2015  
Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics  
Dissertation: Computational analysis of the post-transcriptional gene regulatory network ([thesis](#))

**BSc Bioinformatics**, Saint Vincent College, USA May 2009  
Herbert M. Boyer School of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Computing  
Dissertation: Functional annotation of non-coding elements in the *Amphioxus* genome

*Selected Publications*

Corvo A, Matalonga L, Spalding D, *et al.* (2023) Remote visualization of large-scale genomic alignments for collaborative clinical research and diagnosis of rare diseases. *Cell Genomics*. DOI:[10.1016/j.xgen.2022.100246](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xgen.2022.100246)

Thakur M, Bateman A, Brooksbank C, Freeberg MA, *et al.* (2022) EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) in 2022. *Nucleic Acids Res.* DOI:[10.1093/nar/gkac1098](https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkac1098)

Freeberg MA, Fromont L, D'Altri T, *et al.* (2021) The European Genome-phenome Archive in 2021. *Nucleic Acids Res.* DOI:[10.1093/nar/gkab1059](https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkab1059)

Rehm HL, Page AJH, Smith L, *et al.* (2021) GA4GH: International policies and standards for data sharing across genomic research and healthcare. *Cell Genomics*. DOI:[10.1016/j.xgen.2021.100029](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xgen.2021.100029)

Lawson J, Cabili MN, Kerry G, *et al.* (2021) The Data Use Ontology to streamline responsible access to human biomedical datasets. *Cell Genomics*. DOI:[10.1016/j.xgen.2021.100028](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xgen.2021.100028)

⇒ Full list of publications can be found on [Google Scholar](#).

*Selected  
Invited Talks*

Federated EGA: Providing global discovery and access for sensitive human data. *ISMB/ECCB*; Jul 2023; Lyon, FR ([slides](#))

The Federated EGA: Global discovery and access for sensitive human data. *GA4GH 10th Plenary*; Sep 2022; Barcelona, ES ([slides](#))

FAIR principles and promoting openness in the life sciences. *NIHR Statistics Group Workshop*; Feb 2022; virtual ([slides](#))

The European Genome-phenome Archive Metadata Model. *GHGA Workshop on Metadata in Biomedical Genome Research*; Jun 2021; virtual ([slides](#))

*Selected  
Conferences  
& Workshops*

"Exploring gene and environmental exposure interactions to understand human health and disease" *EMBL-EBI Training Course*; Feb 2024; Cambridge, UK; Scientific Organiser and Trainer ([course](#))

"Demonstrating Federated EGA services for sensitive data discovery and access" *ELIXIR All Hands*; Jun 2023; Dublin, IE; Organiser and Presenter ([workshop](#))

"Resource considerations for establishing and operating a federated human data node" *ELIXIR All Hands*; Jun 2022; Amsterdam, NL; Presenter ([poster](#))

*Leadership  
Roles*

*Co-lead, GA4GH Implementation Forum* (Feb 2024 - Present)

Guide discussions and assessment of solutions for scaling the Variant Call File format for representing genetic variants across large-scale studies

*Co-lead, GA4GH "Future of VCF" Working Group* (Mar 2022 - Feb 2024)

Guide discussions and assessment of solutions for scaling the Variant Call File format for representing genetic variants across large-scale studies

*Organiser, ELIXIR Federated Human Data Community* (Feb 2022 - Present)

Set agenda and priority topics for FHD Community meetings, co-organise FHD Community Day event, coordinate federated human data activities across ELIXIR members

*Chair, Federated EGA Operations Committee* (Jan 2021 - Present)

Lead Committee in fulfilment of responsibilities, coordinate with Committee members to make progress towards shared goals and milestones

*Teaching &  
Mentoring*

*Mentor, Open Life Science* (Jul 2020 - Present)

Mentor participants on open science practices as part of a 16-week mentorship and training program to empower open science ambassadors

*UK STEM Ambassador* (Jan 2018 - Present)

Give talks, demonstrate science experiments, share STEM career guidance

*Training  
Courses*

ELIXIR LEadership And Diversity (ELEAD) mentoring programme

2023-present

Emotional Intelligence and Mindfulness

2020

Talented Women's Impact Programme

2019-2020

EICAT Complementary Scientific Skills Training - Scientific Project Management

2019

Handling Conflict and Difficult Conversations

2018