

# Integration of data from the human GWAS Catalog into the Rat Genome Database

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★ = Variant rs12720356  
★ = QTL GWAS681336\_H

## Abstract:

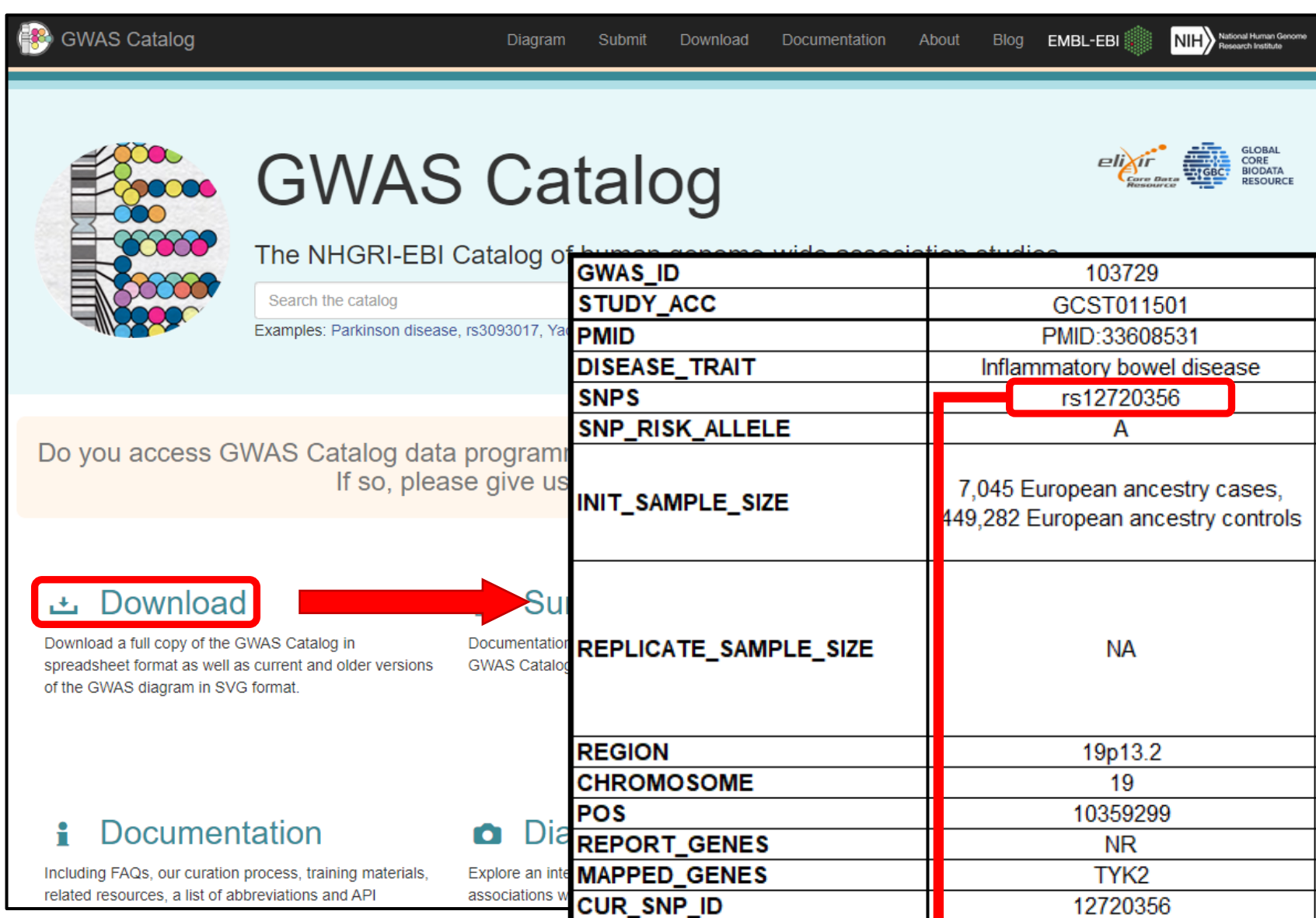
The Rat Genome Database (RGD, <https://rgd.mcw.edu>), the premiere online resource for genetic, genomic, disease and phenotype data for rat, also integrates a substantial corpus of data for human and other mammalian species to facilitate comparative studies. For researchers interested in cross-species studies of disease- and phenotype-related genomic regions, RGD has numerous resources including standardized disease annotations across multiple species; rat, mouse and human quantitative trait loci (QTL) associated with disease, phenotype, trait and measurement term; and human disease- and phenotype-associated variants imported from NCBI's ClinVar database. Now RGD has incorporated human variants and the associated phenotypes from the NHGRI-EBI GWAS Catalog.

All data available at GWAS Catalog for over 676,000 human GWAS results were loaded as is into a "holding" table in the RGD database. These data were filtered based on whether a risk allele was specified. SNPs with a risk allele different than reference at that location were loaded as variant records at RGD. In addition, GWAS QTL records with associated p-values for the listed trait(s) were created for all SNPs regardless of risk allele status.

GWAS Catalog records are associated with terms from the Experimental Factor Ontology (EFO) to denote the phenotypic trait that was studied. To make these data consistent with RGD's existing annotations for genes, QTL, strains, and human variants, EFO terms were matched to terms in the disease, phenotype, trait and measurement vocabularies already in use. Based on the associated EFO terms for each result, annotations to these ontologies were created. Both the original EFO term associations and the derived annotations for other ontologies are displayed on the corresponding variant and QTL report pages at RGD.

These data are discoverable at RGD by searching for terms in any of the mentioned ontologies, using "search by position" for QTLs, and using RGD's Variant Visualizer tool to search for GWAS Catalog SNPs. In addition, variants and QTL that overlap a gene are listed on that RGD gene page. Likewise, the variant and QTL report pages provide information about overlapping gene(s), GWAS QTL defined by the same peak SNP, and any phenotypic or GWAS QTL that overlap the focus variant or QTL.

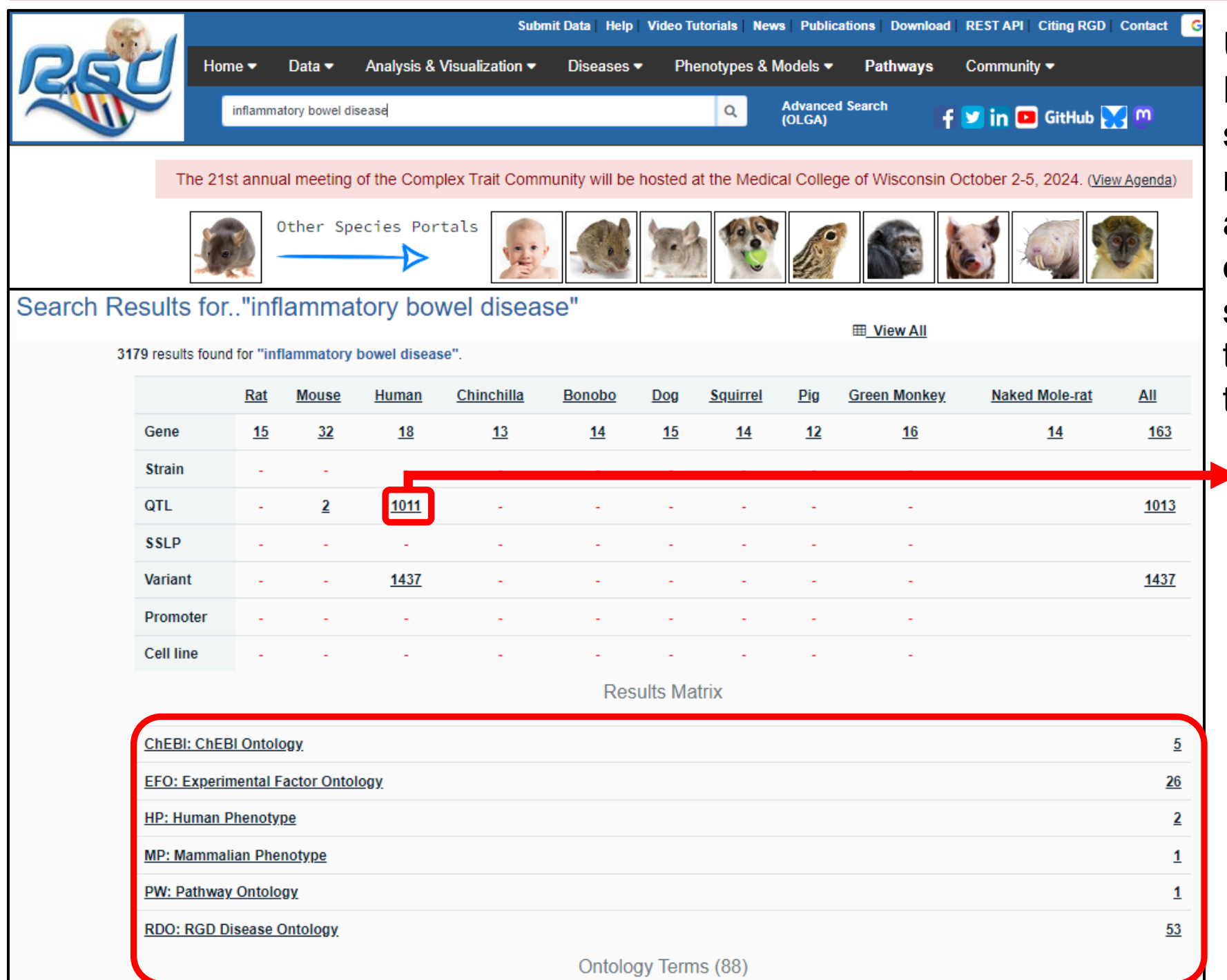
The incorporation of GWAS Catalog variants has substantially expanded the corpus of human genotype-to-phenotype data at RGD. Future work will include improvements to RGD's website and tools to make the data more findable and usable. Also, to support comparative genomics analyses, RGD is actively looking to integrate comparable GWAS datasets for rat.



The pipeline to import data from GWAS Catalog is run on a regular basis to keep the information in RGD up-to-date

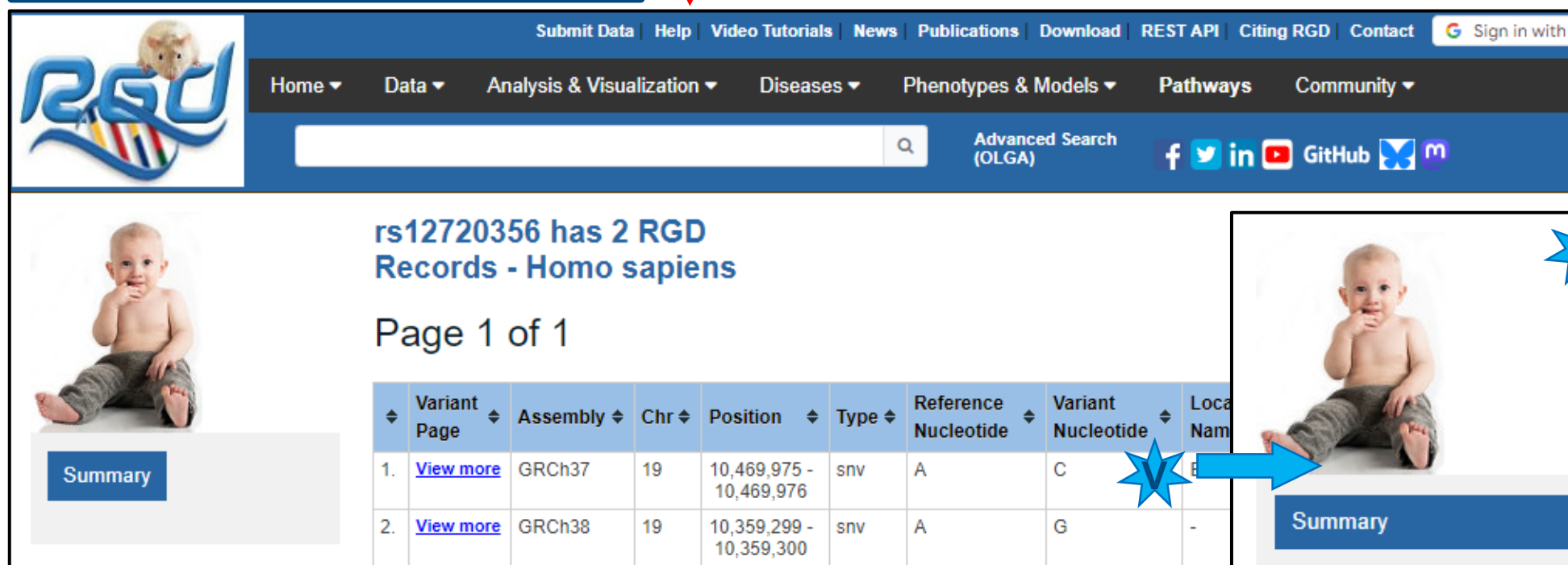
More than 676,000 human GWAS results were downloaded from the NHGRI-EBI GWAS Catalog and inserted as is into a table in the RGD database, including the trait(s) analyzed, population studied, associated position and SNP ID(s), and any information given about the risk allele, its allele frequency and the p-value. When variant and GWAS QTL records are created at RGD those IDs are entered into the corresponding rows in the GWAS\_Catalog table.

## Search by Symbol/Name/Description

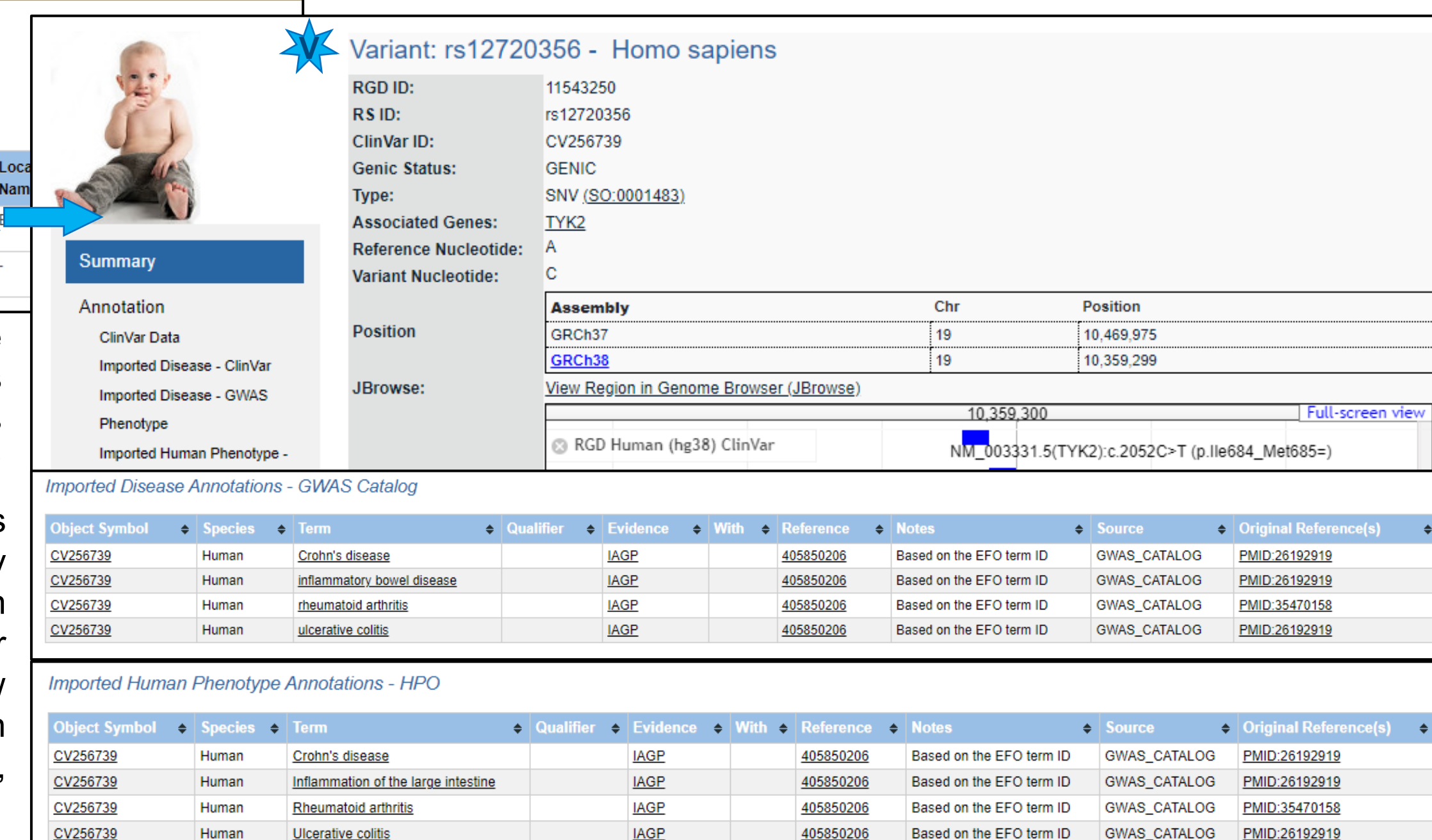
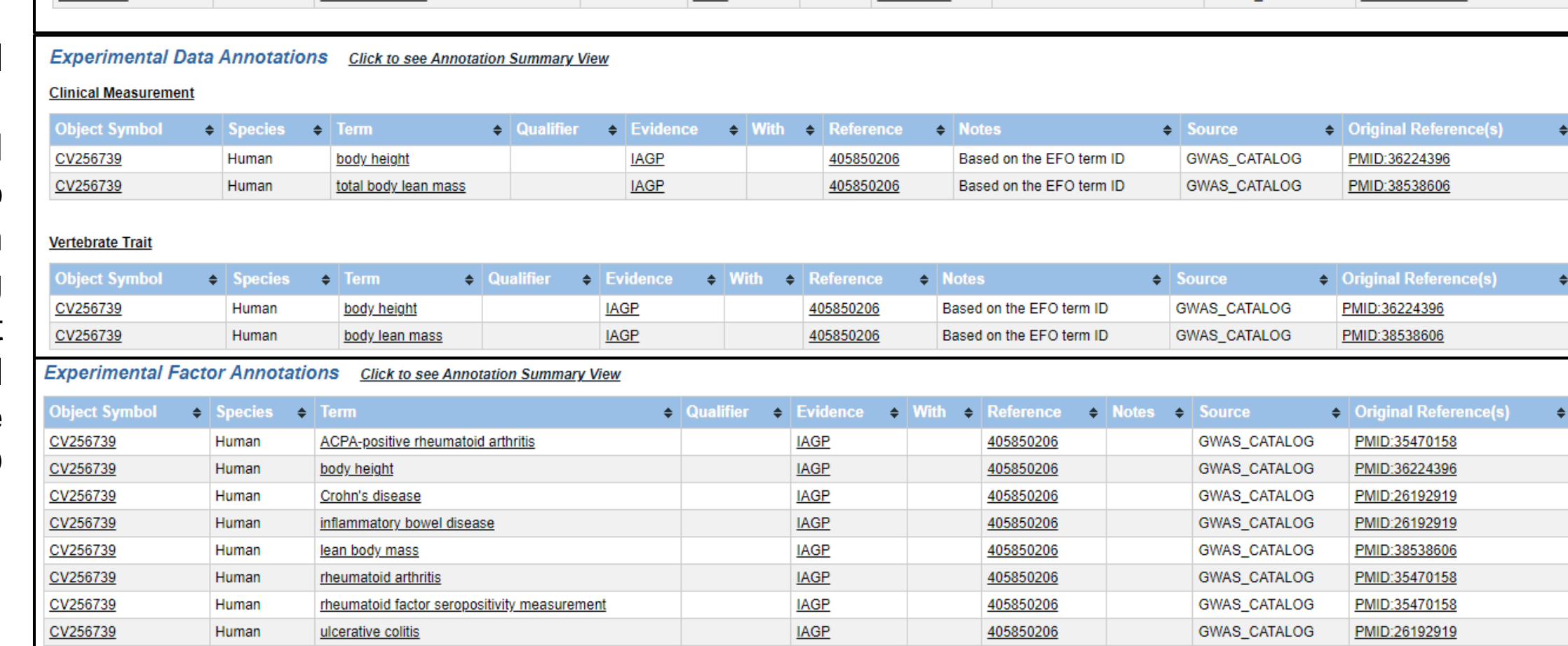
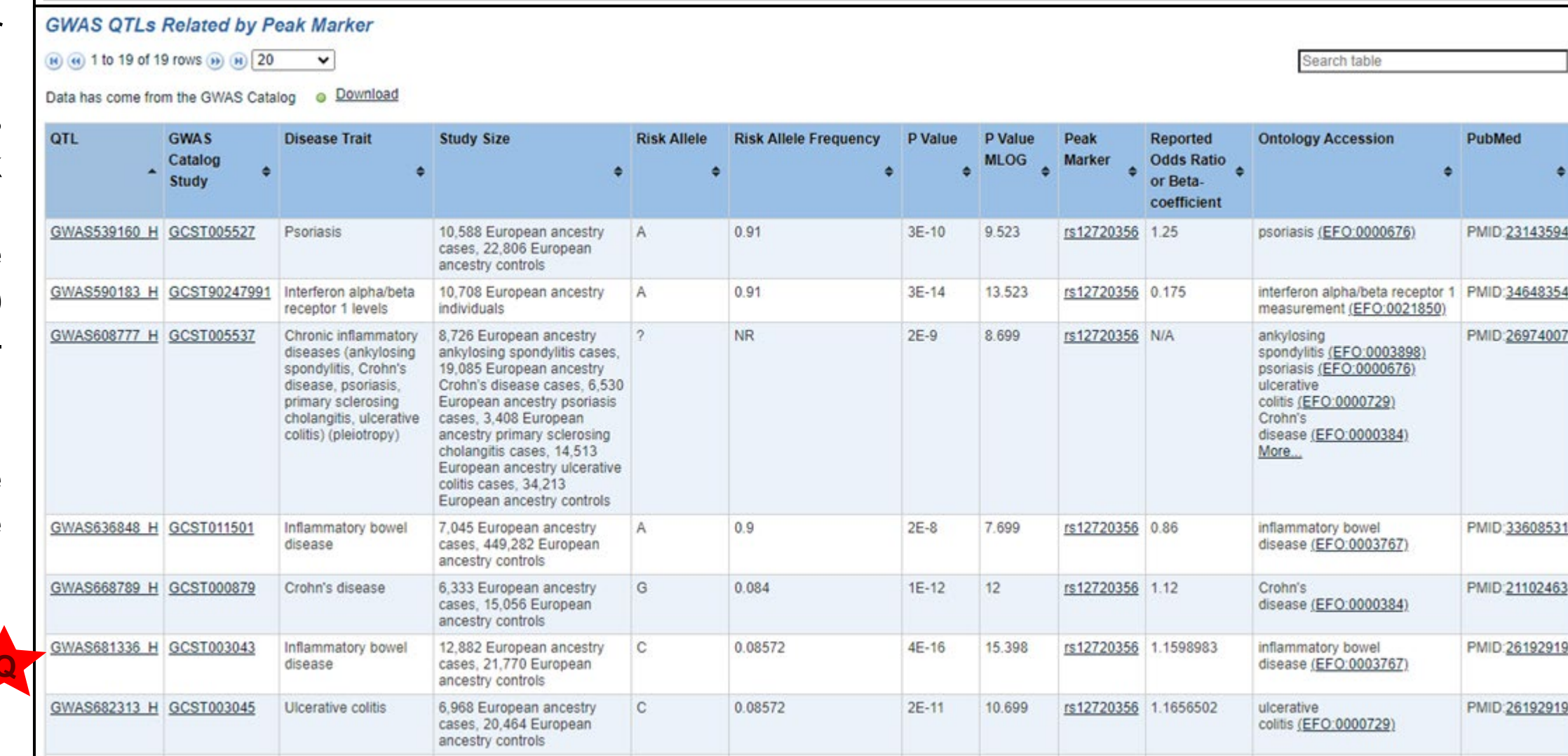


Use the keyword search at the top of most RGD pages to query across data types and species. For genes, QTL, etc. the symbol, name, description, synonyms and internal and external database IDs are searched. For ontologies, the terms, descriptions and synonyms are used. Click on a number in the upper table to see all of the results for that data type and species.

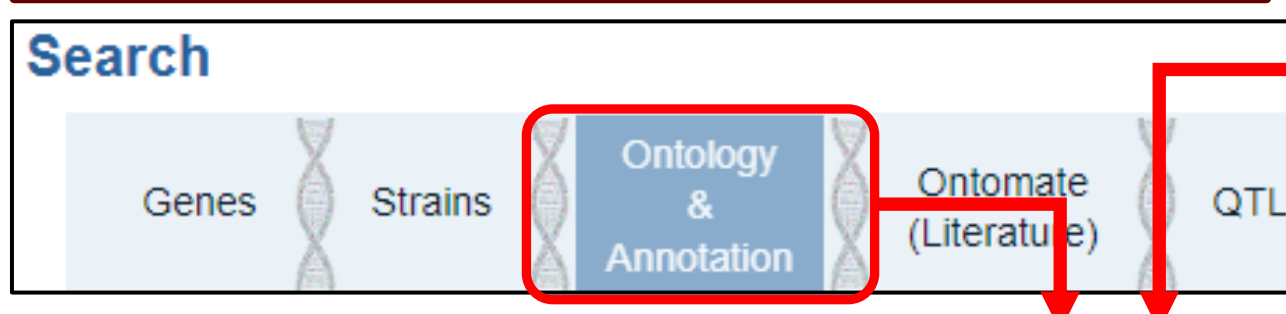
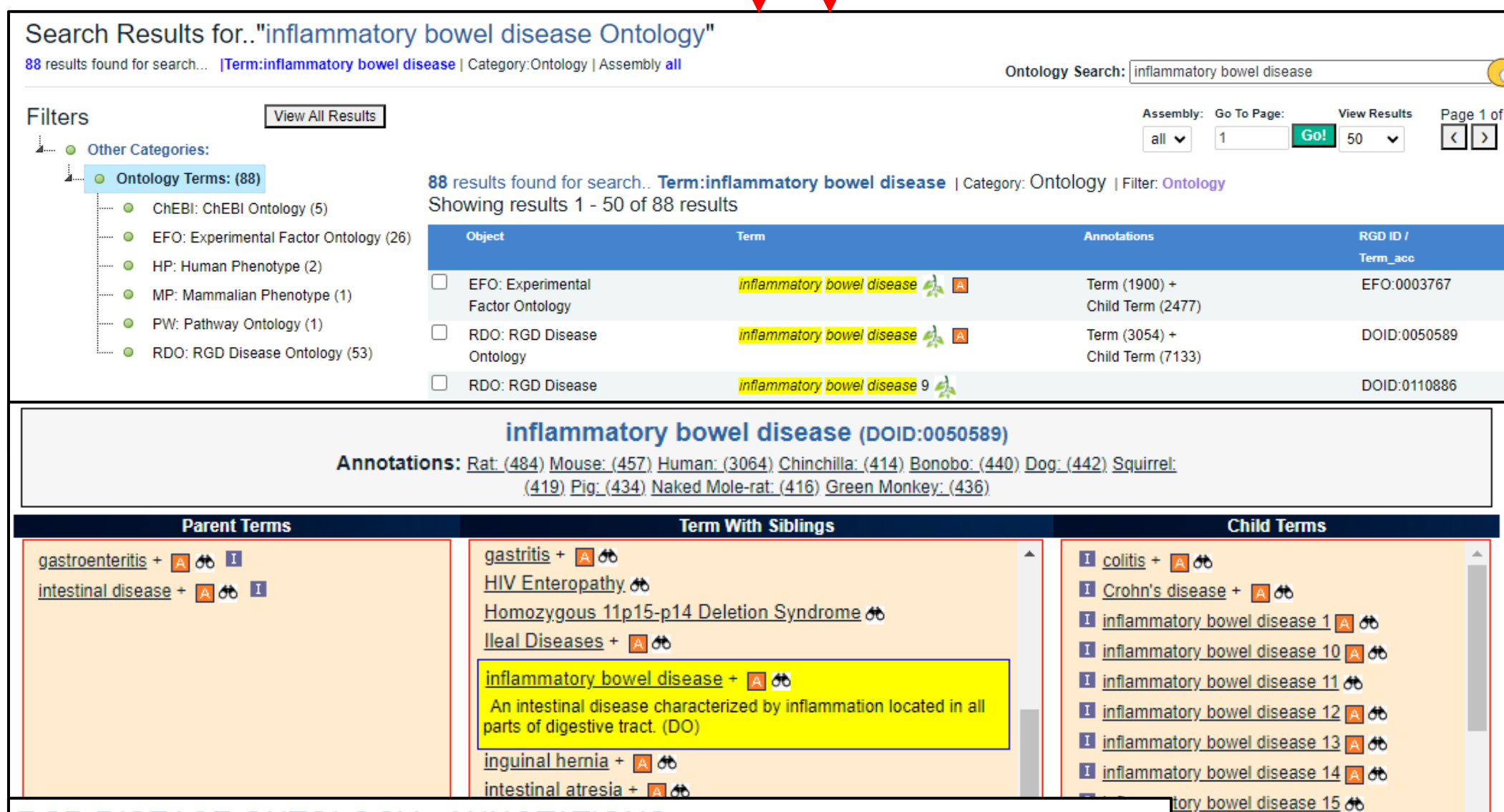
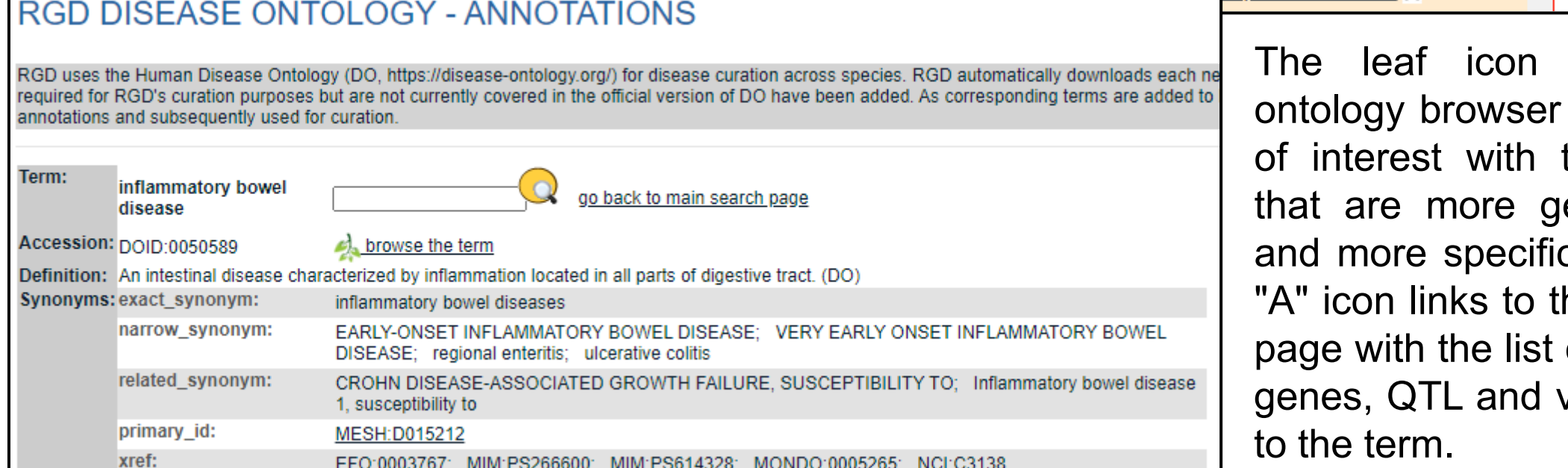
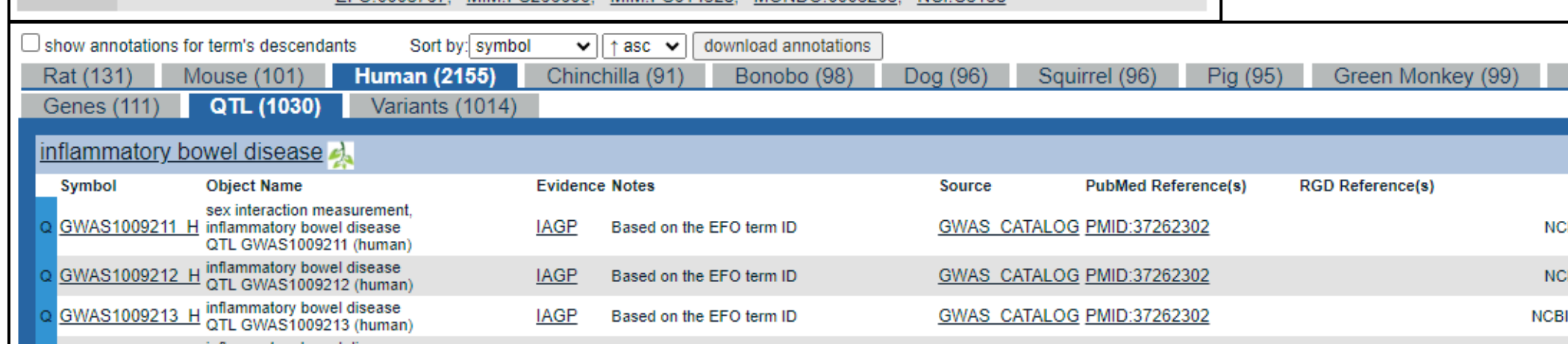
## GWAS Variants



rs IDs are assigned to a genomic position with one or more variant alleles associated. RGD creates variant records based on a position and a single variant allele. If an rs ID has multiple alleles, a search for the rs ID will return multiple RGD records.

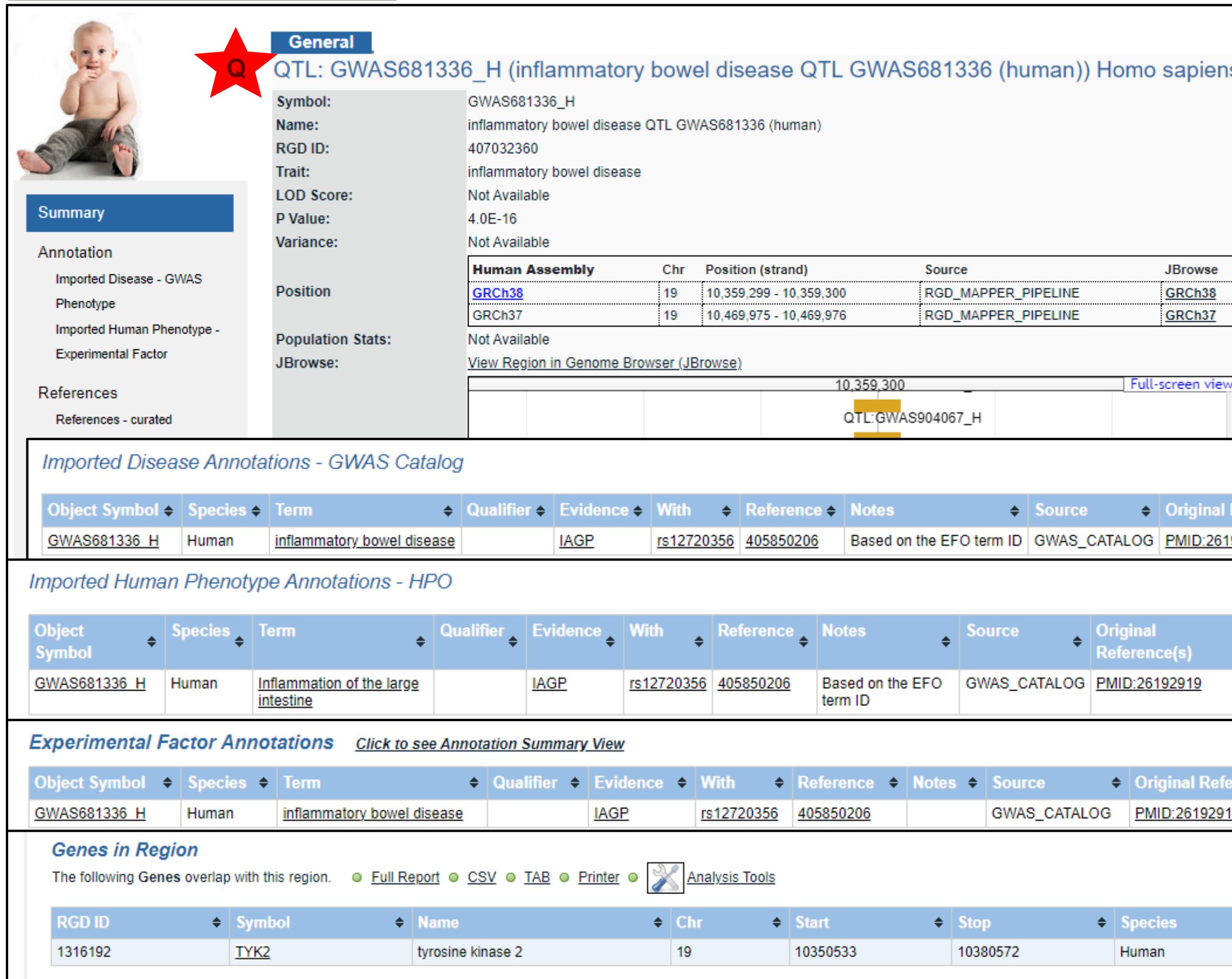




## Search by Ontology Term

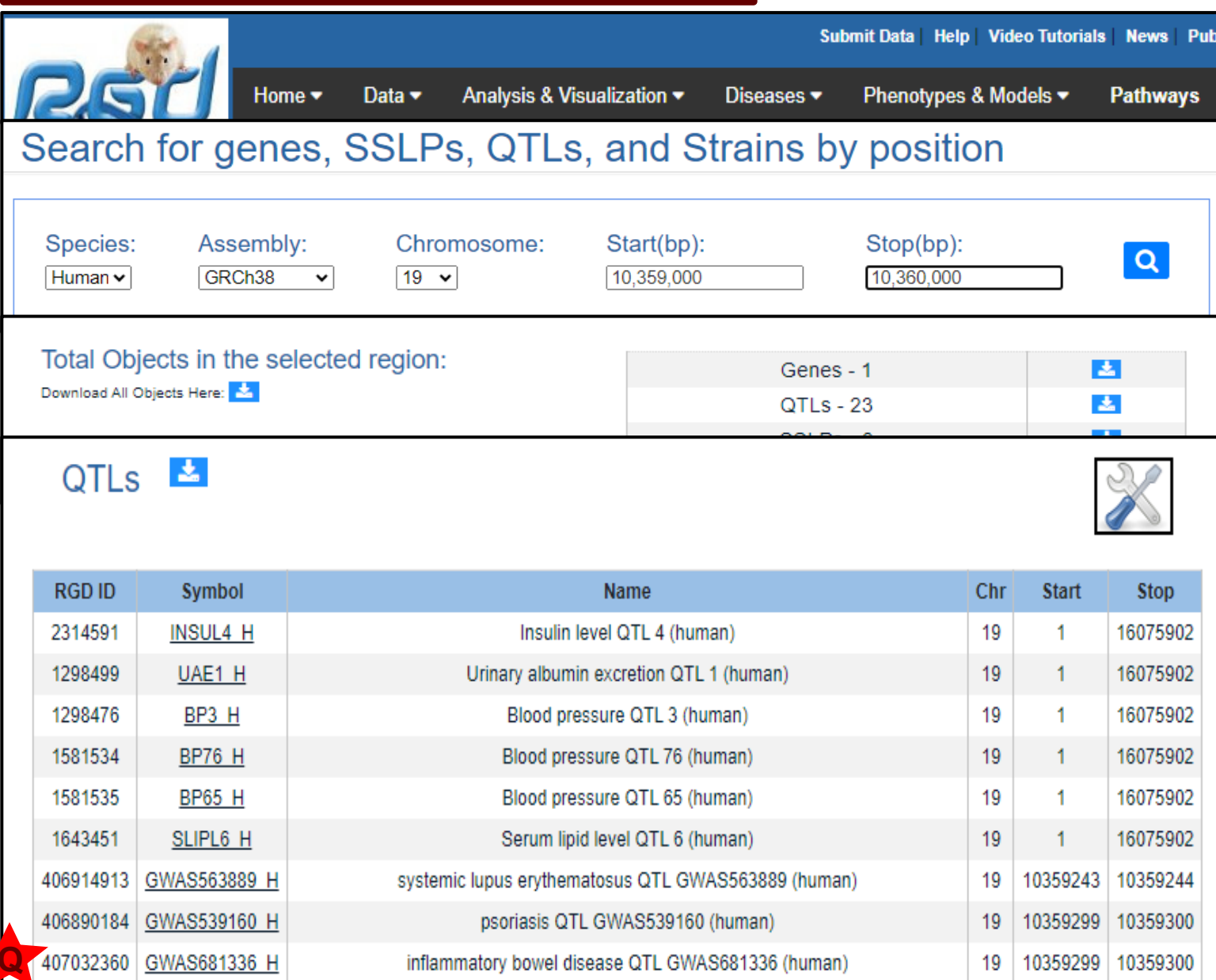





Choose a QTL symbol from the list to follow the link to the RGD QTL report page for more information.

## GWAS QTLs



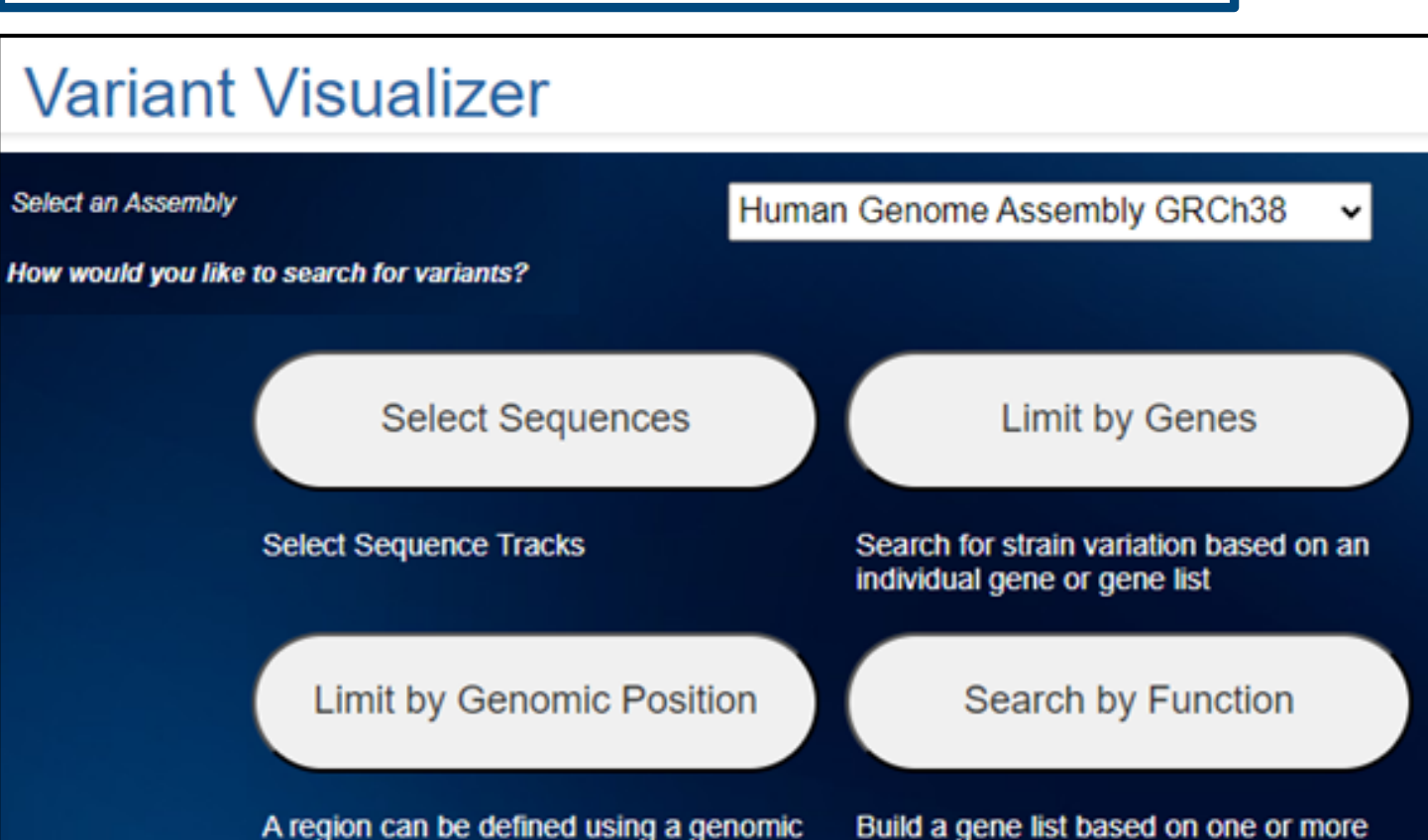
## Search by Position



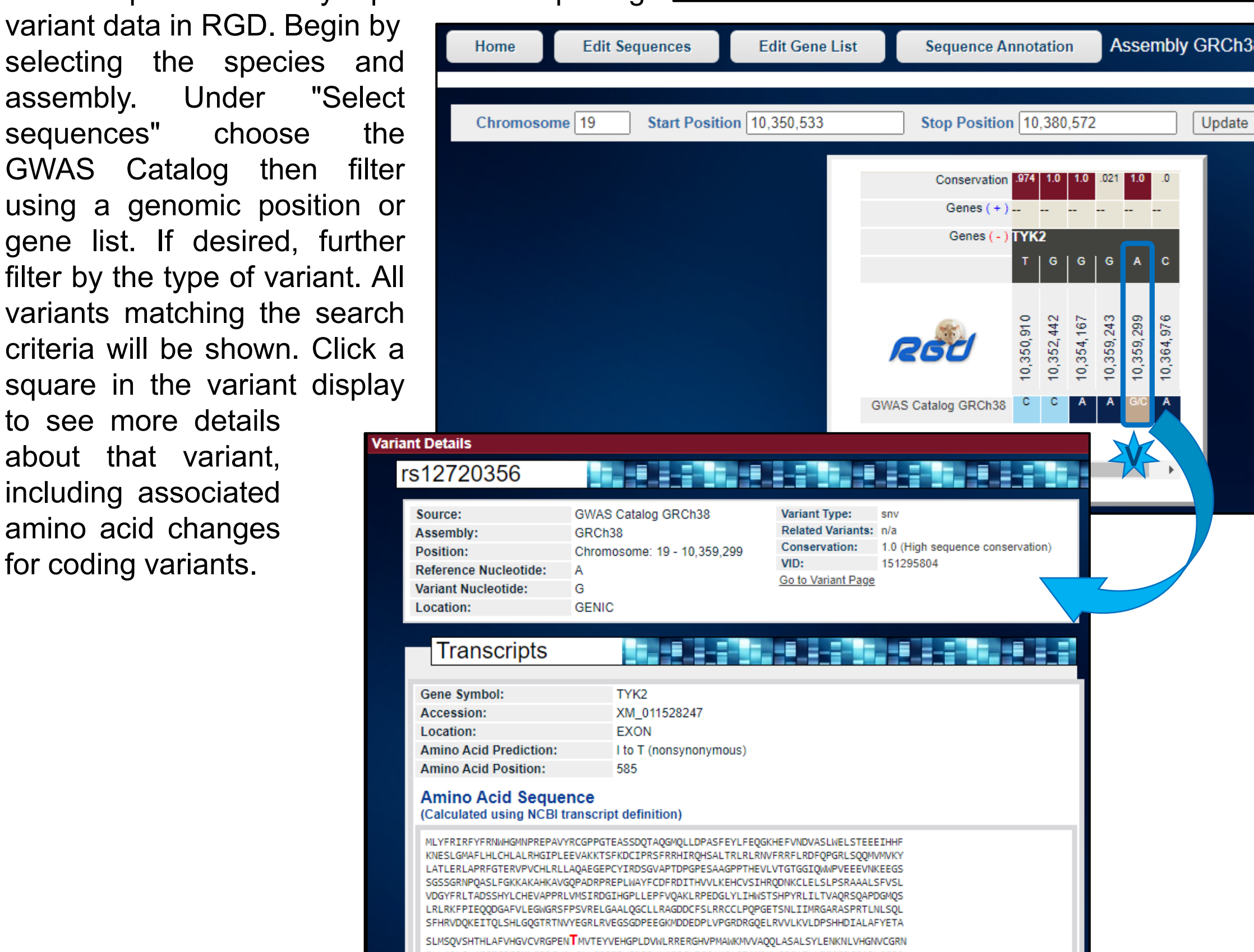
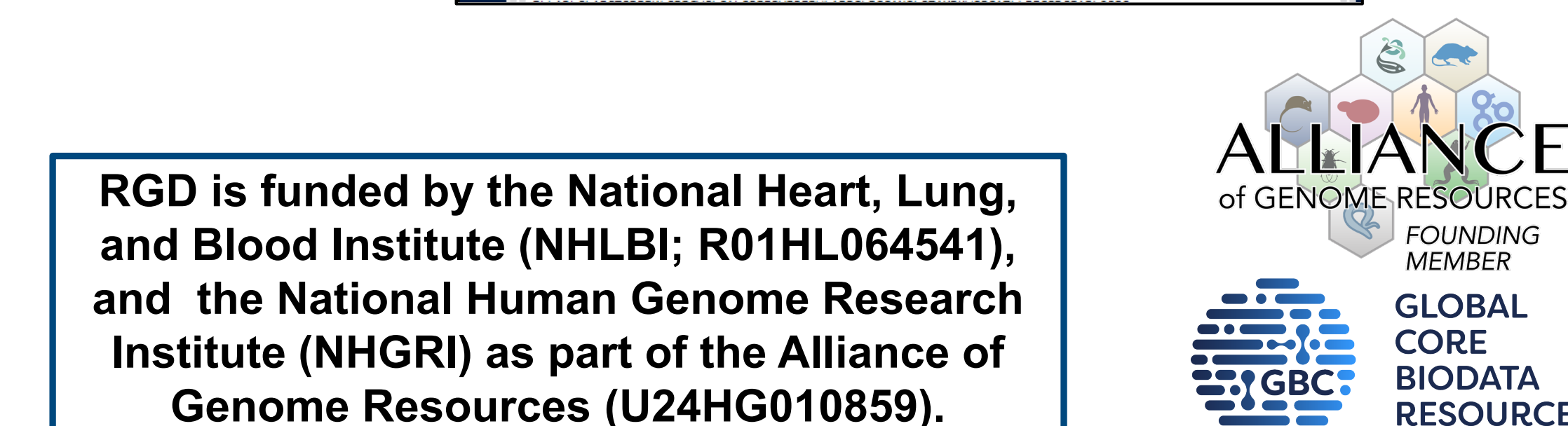
Under "Home" in the RGD menu bar, "Search RGD" opens the search by position menu. Search for specific data types by position using the options in the "Data" menu.

The leaf icon links to RGD's ontology browser showing the term of interest with the related terms that are more general to the left and more specific to the right. The "A" icon links to the ontology report page with the list of all, in this case, genes, QTL and variants annotated to the term.

## Variant Visualizer Search




Variant Visualizer, RGD's "advanced search" for variants provides many options for exploring variant data in RGD. Begin by selecting the species and assembly. Under "Select sequences" choose the GWAS Catalog then filter using a genomic position or gene list. If desired, further filter by the type of variant. All variants matching the search criteria will be shown. Click a square in the variant display to see more details about that variant, including associated amino acid changes for coding variants.

Each QTL report page displays all of the data in RGD associated with that QTL. The position is assigned based on the position of the GWAS variant marker. Since the QTL is defined as the association between a position and a trait, only annotations derived from the EFO associations for the corresponding GWAS result are made to the QTL. The "QTLs in Region" section contains both overlapping pQTLs and GWAS QTLs. "GWAS QTLs Related by Peak Marker" contains all GWAS QTLs that share the same rs ID.