# Project proposal form for eQTLGen consortium

v2.0

1. Aim of the project:

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1. Abstract with scientific justification (up to 200 words):

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1. Brief overview about the intended methods that will be applied on the data:

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1. What data would be needed from consortium/individual cohorts:

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1. Applicant(s), their affiliations and e-mails:

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1. Comments, if any:

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Steering Committee and the Consortium evaluates the project proposals on a case by case basis. In general, proposed projects on unpublished data should either reflect limited lookups, use the limited subset of the data, or should reflect analyses that are not planned for the main eQTLGen phase 2 manuscript. Specifically, the following conditions apply if the project requests access to unpublished or interim freezes of eQTLGen eQTL summary statistics:

* + Proposals for individual lookups, aimed to answer research questions specific to a disease, trait, gene or certain loci, can be accepted, as long as the collaborator will not publish any analyses overlapping with the main eQTLGen phase 2 paper before this main paper is published.
  + Proposals that aim to get fundamental understanding of the genetic regulation of gene expression and that overlap with analyses planned for the main eQTLGen phase 2 paper can be accepted, providing the collaborator will not publish their analyses before the main eQTLGen phase 2 paper is published, and will only publish results based on the official, published freeze.
  + Similarly, proposals that aim to develop new methods leveraging the full eQTLGen results can be accepted, providing the collaborator will not publish their analyses before the main eQTLGen phase 2 paper is published, and will only publish results based on the official, published freeze.

**Applicant agrees to adhere to following principles:**

* If the project requests access to unpublished or interim freezes of eQTLGen eQTL summary statistics:
  + Applicants that wish to publish their results earlier than the main eQTLGen phase 2 paper should discuss this with the Steering Committee.
  + Applicant is aware that shared summary statistics are interim and are subject to be updated until the first official freeze. Due to the large size of the data, eQTLGen will not be able to archive interim freezes. Therefore, the interim freezes are primarily useful for developing methods and testing the hypotheses. For the final publication it might be necessary to redo the analyses with an official freeze.
  + Applicant agrees not to re-distribute unpublished freezes with third persons or make those publicly available.
  + Applicant agrees to not using unpublished freezes in other projects or purposes than outlined in this proposal. A separate proposal is needed for each project.
  + Applicant agrees to never attempt to identify any participant.
  + Applicant agrees to add "eQTLGen Consortium" to prospective publication as banner author, with all the eQTLGen collaborators ordered alphabetically under the PUBMED link (Example: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29891976>). Applicant contacts with eQTLGen coordinators to get the latest banner authorlist.
  + Applicant agrees to circulate any manuscript or preprint with banner authors in the eQTLGen mailing list, two work weeks before submission.
  + Applicant agrees to circulate any conference abstract with banner authors in the eQTLGen mailing list, 1 work week before abstract submission deadline.
  + Applicant informs eQTLGen coordinators in case the publication with banner authors, so that they can update the records.
* If application concerns the novel project requiring analyses on per-cohort data:
  + Applicant provides instructions and resources for running the analyses in individual cohorts, together with google sheet where interested cohorts can sign up.
  + Upon approval of the project, applicant will coordinate the analyses in the cohorts who agree to participate, while adhering to their local established procedures, requirements and legislation.

After inital screening by the eQTLGen Steering Team, this project proposal will be circulated in the consortium mailing list and all consortium members will have 2 work weeks to send any concerns about this prospective collaboration. If none are received, usually the collaboration is initiated, and access to interim summary statistics is granted. The access to the data will be arranged by the Steering Team.

Signature of the applicant: