GA4GH Updates
April 2024

Global Alliance for Genomics & Health

Welcome to the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) Updates newsletter. In these pages, you can learn about progress from across the GA4GH community, including key achievements, next steps, and opportunities to provide input or get involved. To attend any group's regular meeting, find it on the new GA4GH calendar and contact the relevant staff person to access the zoom details.

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Work Stream updates

Clinical & Phenotypic Data Capture (Clin/Pheno)

Clin/Pheno meeting minutes

The Clin/Pheno Work Stream helps clinicians and researchers store, describe, and send data about observable traits (phenotypes) and clinical care. Learn more.

Take action

- **Are you passionate about standardising pharmacogenomics data?** Join the Pharmacogenomics Data Standardisation Study Group! The team aims to develop a data standard to address technical gaps across disparate health systems and enable equitable clinical decision support.
- **Does your group or initiative work with pedigree or family health history information?** The GA4GH Pedigree team is looking for groups to pilot their standard or contribute to their model! Contact Beatrice Amos, Clin/Pheno Work Stream Manager, to consider piloting the GA4GH Pedigree standard or get involved.
- **Do you have a question or are you generally interested in getting involved?** Reach out to Beatrice Amos.

Key updates

- To date, the Pedigree team has prepared the following materials for product approval:
    - recommendations for a common data set for family health history;
    - a conceptual model for representing pedigree data;
    - KINship, an ontology for family history relationships;
    - guides for implementing Pedigree in FHIR and Phenopackets;
    - validation and conversion tooling (in progress) with support from the GA4GH technical team.
- The Phenopackets team developed working, documented code. This code ingests and harmonises cancer data from more than 20,000 lung and cervical cancer patients from the

National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Cancer Institute (NCI) and produces valid phenopacket-formatted data fit for analysis. The Phenopackets team has also been working on tooling for building and validating Phenopackets.

- The Clin/Pheno Work Stream is hosting a series of Driver Project presentations to identify opportunities for collaboration. The Work Stream has heard from the International Precision Child Health Partnership (IPCHiP), the Repository of the International Fetal Genomics Consortium (RIFGC), and the European Genome-phenome Archive (EGA).

Coming up next

- The Pedigree team aims to submit its product for approval later this year and will also explore the potential to bring its work to ISO. The team will also consider hosting a connectathon to support maturation and development of the FHIR Implementation Guide.
- The Pharmacogenomics team aims to revise their initial data model and explore how to incorporate the Variant Representation Specification (VRS) into the model.
- The Clin/Pheno Work Stream will hold several sessions at the April Connect 2024 meeting.
    - Federated cohort building
    - Phenopackets: horizons and perspectives

Work Stream updates

Cloud

Cloud meeting minutes

The Cloud Work Stream standardises how researchers bring algorithms to data — or define, share, and execute portable workflows in any cloud environment, securely and easily. Learn more.

Take action

- **View the Cloud Work Stream road map**, which identifies goals and opportunities to collaborate with other Work Streams and initiatives.
- **Implement a Cloud Work Stream product!** Do you have product feedback or questions? Reach out to Reggan Thomas, the Cloud Work Stream Manager
- **Do you currently use the Workflow Execution Service (WES)?** The team would love to hear from you! Please complete a brief survey to help the team identify areas of improvement and features for the next version.
- **Are you interested in getting involved with product development?** Reach out to Reggan Thomas.

Key achievements

- The Cloud Work Stream has documented examples of their products in action.
    - Multiple systems support data sharing with the Data Repository Service (DRS), including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) cloud platforms (e.g. AnVIL, BioData Catalyst, CRDC) and Kids First, powered by University of Chicago's Gen3. In total, this includes around twenty-three petabytes of data from more than two million participants.
    - Multiple repositories support the Tool Registry Service (TRS), including Dockstore, which shares a library of more than 3,500 workflows and tools with the wider research community.
    - Multiple systems support the Workflow Execution Service (WES) and the Task Execution Service (TES), such as Velsera and Amazon Genomics. ELIXIR Cloud has

demonstrated federated analysis using WES and TES to connect multiple compute locations.

- eLwazi leveraged GA4GH starter kits for DRS, TRS, WES, Passports, and Data Connect to prototype federated analysis and data environments.

Coming up next

- The Cloud Work Stream aims to focus on the evolution of their products, intersections with emerging technology, and increasing their engagement with GA4GH Driver Projects.
- Teams will continue updates on their products.
    - The TES team aims to:
        - develop conformance tests for v1.1;
        - draft v1.2, which will include authentication, callback URLs, and HTTP code mapping.
    - The WES team aims to:
        - draft v1.2, which will add filters and other quality of life improvements;
        - research and draft v2.0 to standardise inputs and outputs, integrate with other GA4GH APIs, develop conformance tests, and include authentication.
    - The TRS team aims to:
        - establish server support for v2.0.1 in dockstore.org;
        - support clients in implementing v2.0;
        - collect feedback for potential future versions.
    - The DRS team aims to:
        - draft v1.5 to include cold storage support;
        - tackle tasks from its priorities board;
        - progress journal publication.
- The Cloud Work Stream will hold a session on "DRS v1.5: key features and plans" at the April Connect 2024 meeting.

Work Stream updates

Data Use & Researcher Identities (DURI)

DURI meeting minutes

The DURI Work Stream creates tools to communicate who can access datasets for which purposes. The tools help confirm user identity and match researcher type to data permissions. Learn more.

Take action

- **Steer the direction of the DURI Work Stream**. DURI is looking for a new Co-Lead to help steer the Work Stream. View the role profile and submit a nomination!
- **Are you interested in staying up to date with DURI activities and getting involved?** It is a great time to participate, as DURI will be releasing a new road map. Reach out to Amreen Mohamed, Work Stream Coordinator.

Key achievements

- The Data Access Committee Review Standards (DACReS) team published a paper on institutional signing officials' current roles and responsibilities and how these may change in the wake of new National Institutes of Health (NIH) policies in the US. The team also has several additional academic papers under peer review.
- The Ethical Provenance Toolkit team, a joint project with the Regulatory & Ethics Work Stream, is mapping the data lifecycle, documenting associated tools, and analysing data access agreements to develop model clauses that promote transparency and consistency in Data Access Agreements.

Coming up next

- The team is looking for a new Co-Lead to steer the direction of the DURI Work Stream. View the role profile and submit a nomination!
- DURI leadership is excited to roll out new road map items and new product meetings to address known challenges and rising opportunities in making compliant data use faster within a federated ecosystem! Look out for forthcoming invitations and join us!

Work Stream updates

Discovery

Discovery meeting minutes

The Discovery Work Stream helps researchers and clinicians explore the wealth of worldwide genomic variations through products developed for searching and exchanging genomic data. Learn more.

Take action

- **Do you have thoughts on how to improve interoperability across GA4GH products?** The GA4GH Data Model and Schema Consensus (DaMaSC) team wants to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete a brief survey.
- **Are you interested in getting involved with product development? Are you looking to implement a Discovery Work Stream product?** Contact Beatrice Amos, the Discovery Work Stream Manager.

Key achievements

- The GA4GH Steering Committee approved the Data Model and Schema Consensus (DaMaSC) team to move from the Study Group to the development phase. The group aims to foster interoperability across GA4GH products.
- Beacon v2.0 saw expansion in adoption. There are more than 30 active implementers in the Beacon v2.0 network, including the European Genomic Data Infrastructure (GDI) project, hospitals, and sequencing centres.
- The Data Connect team is working closely with the Autism Sharing Initiative to launch a federated network for sharing autism spectrum disorder data.
- The Experiments Metadata team released a scope statement outlining the team's areas of focus and steps towards its first product. Learn more about the team's plans!
- In an effort to promote interoperability, a cross-Work-Stream effort will demonstrate Data Connect compatibility with Passports.

Coming up next

- The Beacon team aims to:
    - engage with more resource providers, national initiatives, and large-scale projects to expand product adoption;
    - develop extensions to adapt to additional types of information and formats, including the Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP) Common Data Model (CDM), image files, and cancer registries.
- The Data Connect team aims to continue focusing on product adoption and expanding reach.
- Now in the development phase, the DaMaSC team aims to make strides towards developing its first product.
- The Discovery Work Stream will hold several sessions at the April Connect 2024 meeting.
    - GA4GH Connect satellite workshop at Zurich University: Beacon implementers
    - Federated variant level matching
    - Data Model Schema Consensus (DaMaSC) style guide and ontologies
    - Experiments Metadata Standard
    - Around the world in one query
    - Beacon thematic working session: cohorts
    - Beacon variants
    - Implementation of Beacon in cancer use cases
    - Beacon resolved: a session for development
    - Beacon filter solutions

Work Stream updates

Genomic Knowledge Standards (GKS)

GKS meeting minutes

The GKS Work Stream designs technical standards that enable computer-to-computer exchange of information about genomes, improving the search and application of genomic knowledge. Learn more.

Take action

- **Do you have a question? Are you interested in getting involved with product development?** Contact Beatrice Amos, the GKS Work Stream Manager.

Key achievements

- The GKS Work Stream updated the Variation Representation Specification (VRS) and Variant Annotation (VA) to use a shared schema. The team's work is documented in its design process and maturity model.
- The Categorical Variation (CatVar) team is developing Cat-VRS: a model to help clinician-researchers efficiently query genomic knowledge-bases to find categorical variants. Through Steering Committee approval, the team has progressed from Study Group to development.
- The VRS Structural Variation (SV) special interest group has developed foundational classes for VRS v2.0.
- The VA team has advanced their product road map.
    - The team is applying the VA modelling framework to variant pathogenicity and therapeutic response implementation profiles in ClinGen and Variant Interpretation for Cancer Consortium (VICC). Population frequency is being applied to the implementation profile in gnomAD.
    - The GKS Github repositories are undergoing reorganisation to support implementation-driven profile development and the re-use of common modelling elements across GKS schema.

Coming up next

- The VRS team aims to test VRS v2.0 at a beta release workshop at the April Connect meeting.
- The CatVar team aims to present a test set and early alpha version of the Cat-VRS model for feedback from the wider GA4GH community.
- The Sequence Annotation team aims to conduct a landscape analysis, which will be used to develop a conceptual model.
- The VA team aims to complete initial ClinGen and VICC implementation profiles and release documentation for the specification.
- The GKS Work Stream aims to align specification development processes across its products by establishing maturity model versioning and release procedures.
- The GKS Work Stream will hold several sessions at the April Connect 2024 meeting.
    - GKS: releases are forever
    - GKS: casino Cat-VRS
    - GKS: you only implement twice
    - GKS: from the road map with love
    - GKS: the feature is not enough

Work Stream updates

Large-Scale Genomics (LSG)

LSG meeting minutes

The LSG Work Stream develops products to describe, compress, store, encrypt, and transfer genomic data in a scalable way. Learn more.

Take action

- **Lead development of one of the most widely-used file formats!** GA4GH is recruiting a new Tech Team member who will work on updating htsjdk to support CRAM in the Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV). Reach out to Tech Team Lead Jimmy Payyappilly to learn more.
- **Calling all Driver Projects — do you use VCF in your pipelines?** The VCF team is working on a v4.5 release. The team welcomes your feedback.
- **Do you have a question? Are you looking to get involved?** Reach out to Reggan Thomas, the LSG Work Stream Manager.

Key achievements

- The htsget team is undergoing implementation work for the European Genomic Data Infrastructure (GDI) project and the GA4GH reference server. This effort includes developing additional backend support for MinIO and others.
- The CRAM team has developed a second reference implementation for Noodles (rust).

Coming up next

- The Crypt4GH team is working towards cross-standard integration with the Data Repository Service (DRS) and htsget, updating the specification to v1.1, gathering reference data for testing implementations, and exploring native support in htsjdk.
- The WGS Quality Control Standards team aims to select and define key metrics and to implement each in at least one workflow.

- The refget team aims to increase adoption of the standard and integrate with other formats such as BED and CRAM.
- The refget Sequence Collections team aims to submit their product for Steering Committee approval this year and align with VRS v2.0.
- The RNAget team aims to explore integration with the Beacon specification.
- The VCF team is working towards v4.5, which will include short tandem repeat descriptions and support for base modifications.
- The Future of VCF team aims to host a benchmarking challenge this year to help the VCF specification scale. In the future, the team aims to explore support for graph-based genome representations and pangenome references.
- The LSG Work Stream aims to explore integration with other GA4GH standards, such as Experiments Metadata and DRS, and coordinate with other initiatives in the community, such as GATK and Illumina.
- The LSG Work Stream will hold several sessions at the April Connect 2024 meeting.
    - VCF v4.5: scalability and methylation
    - Crypt4GH, workflows, and key management
    - Command line interface for GA4GH environments enhanced with confidential computing

Work Stream updates

Data Security

Data Security meeting minutes

The Data Security Work Stream develops products and guidelines to safeguard privacy, data integrity, and service availability. The Work Stream also assesses GA4GH outputs for risk or security implications. Learn more.

Take action

- **Do you have any questions? Are you interested in getting involved in the Data Security Work Stream?** Contact Jessica Seegobin, the Data Security Work Stream Manager.

Key achievements

- The team is developing a Passports and Authorisation and Authentication Infrastructure (AAI) implementation guide for Passports and AAI. The guide shows example implementations of Passports and AAI in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Researcher Auth Service (RAS) and ELIXIR's European Genomic Data Infrastructure (GDI) project.

Coming up next

- The team is transitioning to new leadership this year. Two new co-leads will be announced soon.
- The Data Security Work Stream will host several sessions at the April Connect meeting: Passports in Production, as well as a collaborative session with the Cloud Work Stream on implementing AAI and Passports in the cloud.

Work Stream updates

Regulatory & Ethics (REWS)

REWS meeting minutes

REWS develops community-driven policies, tools, and standards that address regulatory and ethical considerations in genomic research and international data sharing. Learn more.

Take action

- **Are you interested in writing about GDPR implications and genomic and health data sharing?** The GDPR Forum is looking for guest writers! Reach out to the REWS team to express your interest.
- **Are you interested in writing about the impact of public attitudes on genomic policy?** The Participant Values team is also looking for guest writers! Reach out to the REWS team to express your interest or read past briefs.
- **Are you a clinical expert with opinions on data sharing practices?** The Clinical Data Sharing and Consent team is conducting a study on the types of data and level of detail that can be shared without explicit consent in the context of clinical data sharing. You can share your thoughts and perspectives in a brief survey or share the link with a colleague.
- **Do you have questions? Are you interested in getting involved in REWS?** Contact the REWS team.

Key achievements

- The Steering Committee approved Diversity in Datasets as a GA4GH policy framework.
- The Ethical Provenance Toolkit team, a joint project with the Data Use & Researcher Identities Work Stream, is mapping the data lifecycle, documenting associated tools, and analysing data access agreements to develop model clauses that promote transparency and consistency in Data Access Agreements.
- The Pathogen Genomic Data Sharing (formerly Ethical Preparedness for Pandemics and Epidemics (EPPE) Framework) team is analysing access and benefit sharing clauses in international data sharing agreements to clarify obligations of researchers and institutions to share pathogen genomic data during pandemics.

- The Genetic Discrimination Toolkit team is finalising a manuscript on key elements of an optimal genetic non-discrimination policy, using a Delphi study. The team has also written a paper on the definition of genetic discrimination, which is under consideration by *Nature Genetics*.
- Contributors from REWS and the Driver Project EpiShare published a manuscript describing approaches to exploring epigenomics data while filtering out identifiable information. GA4GH's *Framework for responsible sharing of genomic and health-related data* guides these methods.

Coming up next

- REWS has outlined new topics for further exploration. If you are interested in getting involved in these topics, please reach out to the REWS team.
    - **Newborn Whole Genome Screening**: develop a policy tool that identifies the data and implementation needs for incorporating sequencing into newborn screening programmes.
    - **Preventing Group Harms**: investigate potential harms caused by research as a result of scientific claims made about groups of individuals.
    - **Global Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (ELSI) Forum**: explore collaborations with genomic researchers and health practitioners from low and middle income countries to develop more optimal governance structures for data sharing at the intersection of ethics, law, and genomics.
    - **Conversational Artificial intelligence (AI) for Genomic Data Sharing**: develop a tool that will facilitate the responsible integration of conversational AI into data sharing processes.
    - **Data visiting**: develop a data visiting agreement template and implementation guidance for researchers when it may not be possible to share genomic research due to cultural, legal, or computational factors.
    - **Measuring Uptake of Ethics and Data Governance Policies in Genomics (Metrics)**: identify the impact indicators suitable for evaluating bioethics and health policy documents to develop a standardised impact metric for use by international organisations in genomics.
- REWS will hold several sessions at the April Connect 2024 meeting.

- REWS general meeting
- Ethical Provenance workshop: finalising the GA4GH Data Access Agreement Template Clauses
- Opportunities and obligations in conducting responsible genomics research
- Data visiting

Forums and Communities

GA4GH Implementation Forum

*The **GA4GH Implementation Forum (GIF)** drives GA4GH standards implementation within scientific, clinical, and industry domains. GIF aims to facilitate standards implementation, ensure interoperability, and promote best practices so that GA4GH solutions can solve real-world problems. By promoting the mission pillars of **Implementation**, **Interoperability**, and **Inclusivity**, GIF brings the value and benefits of GA4GH standards to a wider audience. By considering diverse requirements and available resources, GIF aims to lower barriers to entry for implementing GA4GH standards in the spirit of "building networks of knowledge instead of silos of expertise." Learn more.*

Key achievements

- GIF recently welcomed new Co-Leads, Mallory Freeberg (EMBL-EBI) and Alastair Thomson (ARPA-H), who will leverage their expertise in collaboration and innovation to support the adoption of GA4GH products and tools.

Coming up next

- GIF leadership, alongside GA4GH staff, are discussing ways to better define the direction and approach of GIF and will invite broader participation later in the year.
- GIF will host a session at the April Connect 2024 meeting aimed at collecting input from community members on the forum's structure and approach. The focus will be on ensuring that GIF incorporates mechanisms for addressing specific community needs.

Forums and Communities

National Initiatives Forum (NIF)

The GA4GH National Initiatives Forum (NIF) supports uptake of GA4GH standards on a global scale and provides real-world insights to the Work Streams as they develop new products to support data sharing. The group also enables collective learning by sharing best practices, challenges, and opportunities with a technical, regulatory, clinical, and educational focus. Learn more.

Take action

- **Are you part of a national genomic data initiative?** If you are interested in becoming a NIF member, fill out the form here.

Key achievements

- On 27 February, NIF hosted the first workshop in its 2024 series, this one entitled, "Lessons from Implementation: Sharing Variants". The workshop included presentations from genomic experts on the benefits and challenges associated with variant sharing, along with insights into current resources and established platforms such as Shariant, Clinical Variant Ark, and the All4One Health Data Ecosystem.

Coming up next

- Keep an eye out for upcoming NIF workshop invitations! In May, NIF will host a workshop exploring NIF strategy and ways to engage with its members. In June, NIF will host a workshop investigating ways of demonstrating and measuring the value of genomics in healthcare.

Communities of Interest

Cancer Community of Interest

Meeting minutes

The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) Cancer Community is a forum for researchers, clinicians, and technical experts to: 1) support the creation of fit-for-purpose solutions by strengthening the communication and interaction between users and developers; 2) increase the chances of collaboration, favouring interoperability and data sharing; and 3) connect international initiatives with common needs through interoperability standards.

Take action

- **Are you interested in joining the Cancer Community?** Contact Yasmeen Kurdi, Partner Engagement Coordinator, and Neerjah Skantharajah, Partner Engagement Manager, for more information.

Key achievements

- The Cancer Community meets on the second Monday of each month. At each meeting, guest speakers present on their real-world genomic data initiatives and how GA4GH standards are implemented within cancer-focused use cases.

Coming up next

- The Cancer Community will host a session at the April Connect 2024 meeting on exploring cancer applications of the GA4GH Beacon standard.
- The application for a new Cancer Community Co-Lead is now closed for submissions. Look out for updates on new leadership soon!

Communities of Interest

Rare Disease Community of Interest

Meeting minutes

The GA4GH Rare Disease Community (G-RDC) is a forum for researchers, clinicians, and technical experts to define, discuss, and advance real-world rare disease use cases through the implementation of GA4GH interoperability standards. Bringing together rare disease genomics projects interested in data infrastructure, management, analysis, and sharing, the G-RDC is uniquely positioned to bridge the clinical and technical rare disease communities.

Take action

- **Are you a member of the Rare Disease Community?** Provide your feedback through the Rare Disease Community survey to help guide the future direction of community meetings and activities.
- **Are you interested in joining the Rare Disease Community?** Contact Yasmeen Kurdi, Partner Engagement Coordinator, and Neerjah Skantharajah, Partner Engagement Manager, for more information.

Key achievements

- The G-RDC recently hosted a webinar called "Grand challenges in rare diseases" in honour of Rare Disease Day on 29 February. The webinar included presentations from Marc Hanauer, about his work at Orphanet, followed by Matthew Bolz-Johnson from EURODIS, who presented on the patient experience within the rare disease diagnosis journey. The webinar recording is available here.

Coming up next

- The G-RDC is gearing up to host a session at the April Connect 2024 meeting in Ascona, Switzerland. This session will include presentations from different sectors of the rare disease landscape such as patient organisations, research translation, and clinical perspectives.

Communities of Interest

GA4GH & PHA4GE Infectious Disease Community of Interest

Meeting minutes

The GA4GH & PHA4GE Infectious Disease Community of Interest convenes international groups focused on advancing human genomics for the purpose of treating and diagnosing infectious diseases. The group interfaces and collaborates with the pathogen genomics community through a partnership with the Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology (PHA4GE)..

Take action

- **Are you interested in presenting at an upcoming Infectious Disease community meeting?** Review the presentation guidelines document to learn how you can get involved.
- **Are you interested in joining the Infectious Disease Community?** Contact Yasmeen Kurdi, Partner Engagement Coordinator, and Neerjah Skantharajah, Partner Engagement Manager, for more information.

Key achievements

- Engagement and activity within the Infectious Disease Community led to the development of two GA4GH Study Groups: Experiments Metadata Standard (now part of the Discovery Work Stream) and the Ethical Preparedness for Pandemics and Epidemics (EPPE) Framework (now part of the Regulatory & Ethics Work Stream).
- Contributors of the EPPE Study Group developed PathSBeacon, an extension of the GA4GH Beacon protocol that allows for implementation in pathogen-focused use cases.

Coming up next

- The Infectious Disease Community is gearing up to host a meeting in the coming months.

Communities of Interest

Neuroscience Community of Interest

Exploratory meeting minutes

The Neuroscience Community aims to promote global cooperation, data sharing, and collaborative research in neuroscience by creating opportunities for inter-institutional scientific collaborations, sharing of practices and governance models, and the adoption of standards for data sharing and federated analyses that benefit research and patient communities.

Take action

- **Are you interested in joining the GA4GH Neuroscience Community?** Contact Yasmeen Kurdi, Partner Engagement Coordinator, and Neerjah Skantharajah, Partner Engagement Manager, for more information.

Key achievements

- In a collaborative effort to better understand the landscape of neuroscience in genomics, members of the Neuroscience Community produced a landscape review to identify diverse initiatives with which to engage. Initiatives include, but are not limited to, Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiatives, Aligning Science Across Parkinson's Collaborative Research Network, INCF, EBRAINS, Neuromatch, Scalable and Systematic Neurobiology of Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Disorder Risk Genes, Organization for Human Brain Mapping, Ontario Brain Institute, and DNAStack - Neuroscience AI.

Coming up next

- The Neuroscience Community will host a hackathon-style session at the April Connect 2024 meeting. This session will bring together representatives from diverse neuroscience initiatives to address challenges the community faces. These include: 1) data harmonisation, federation, analytics, and tooling; 2) data governance; and 3) scientific collaboration and education.

Other activities

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group

EDI meeting minutes

The EDI Advisory Group aims to examine and address equity, diversity, and inclusion within the GA4GH standards development community.

Take action

- **Are you interested in being kept up to date with Strategic Plan progress and providing feedback?** Email Neerjah Skantharajah to be added to the EDI Advisory Committee mailing list. Meetings occur quarterly.

Key achievements

- After multiple rounds of review by the GA4GH Steering Committee and the broader GA4GH community, the GA4GH staff has successfully incorporated feedback on the EDI Strategic Plan to ensure it is reflective of community needs.

Coming up next

- At the April Connect 2024 meeting, GA4GH staff will host a session presenting the finalised EDI Strategic Plan, along with a timeline of activities to implement outlined goals.

Other activities

Technical Alignment Subcommittee (TASC)

TASC meeting minutes

TASC's mission is to aid in the harmonisation of aspects of GA4GH's products to ensure that they can be used together effectively. TASC provides mechanisms and recommendations to create internal consistency and technical alignment across GA4GH Work Streams and products. While TASC functions as a central decision-making body, all of its decisions are informed by relevant stakeholders. The work of TASC, including all documentation and decisions, is regularly and openly communicated back to the GA4GH community. .

Take action

- **Do you want to raise a technical alignment issue with TASC?** Submit a Github request or Slack #tasc.
- **Do you have questions? Do you want to get involved with TASC?** Contact Amreen Mohamed, Work Stream Coordinator.

Key achievements

- TASC has developed a guide for how technical products should handle pagination. After a feedback collection process, the team is now finalising the guidance document. Learn more.

Coming up next

- The team is working on the following GitHub issues:
    - gathering requirements for citing GA4GH standards (view supporting materials) and a GA4GH namespace policy;
    - formulating a solution on IANA and media types registry;
    - beginning work on locating objects of interest and moving Crypt4GH into its own repository.
- In collaboration with the GA4GH communications and web teams, TASC aims to develop a webpage on the GA4GH website to host TASC outputs.
- At the April Connect 2024 meeting, TASC will hold a session to discuss current projects and next steps.