



NCRAD

January 2018

Introduction

NCRAD would like to introduce a new coordinator that has joined our team and will be working closely with the ADCs. Adrian Lyons joins NCRAD with combined experience in clinical research and regulatory affairs. You may be receiving emails from Adrian and/or Kelley in the future. Adrian's email address is: adnlyons@iu.edu if you'd like to contact her directly.

Annual Sample Distribution Reports

It is time again for NCRAD's annual Sample Distribution Reports. This is sent out every January to the Center Director. Please contact Adrian Lyons (adnlyons@iu.edu) if you would like a copy sent to directly to others as well. This report is intended to assist your Center in demonstrating your contribution to central sample banking efforts encouraged by NIA.

The report summarizes the number of samples provided by your site as part of initiatives banking samples at NCRAD. For example, a Center could be sending samples as part of the ADGC, ADNI, and LOAD initiatives. Please note that the number of samples provided on the report is a count of unique individuals within a study. Some studies are collecting longitudinal samples or multiple types of samples and these are not distinguished.

The annual report also summarizes how frequently samples contributed by your site are requested by researchers. The report shows the total number of samples contributed by your site that were ever distributed to researchers as well as the number that were distributed in the past year. This is a total count and is not restricted to unique subjects. Samples from the same subject may be requested by more than one investigator.

This count does not reflect the samples that were returned to the contributing site as their one free aliquot.

Our summary report also provides the number of unique investigators that have requested samples contributed by your Center. We provide this information for the past year and also in a cumulative form across all years. Finally, all NIH grants that were supported by the samples contributed by your site are listed.

Annual ADC Conference Calls

We appreciate the opportunity to review progress and discuss new initiatives with ADCs during our annual conference call. It is time to schedule our spring calls with all Centers. Adrian will begin to contact each Center soon to schedule a call for February or March. We look forward to speaking with you soon!

ADC Samples to NCRAD

NCRAD continues to accept samples from all subjects with an MDS or UDS at NACC. NACC has updated the lists of samples for submission to NCRAD as of October 2017. The lists of subjects eligible to send to NCRAD have now been separated into "active" participants and "inactive" participants.

<https://www.alz.washington.edu/GWASPHASE2/gwasphase2.html>

While fresh whole blood samples are preferred, NCRAD also accepts frozen buffy coats, transferred DNA and brain tissue samples. Our goal is to have a DNA sample banked and available from all MDS and UDS subjects.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns about NCRAD at 800-526-2839, by email at alzstudy@iu.edu or visit our [web-site: www.ncrad.org](http://www.ncrad.org) Thanks!!



Expanded Services Available-Reminder from Last Quarter

A note from our NIA Program Officer, Dr. Nina Silverberg, was distributed to all Center directors in June notifying them of the expanded services NCRAD will be providing in direct response to the ADC Panel Recommendations.

To help meet the NIH sharing requirements, NCRAD will work with ADCs to share samples with other researchers more easily and cost effectively. NCRAD is expanding the number and types of specimens that are centrally banked and available to approved researchers. NCRAD currently banks DNA from the ADCs. NCRAD can now receive other specimen types from the ADCs (plasma, serum, CSF aliquots). The goal with these new efforts is to reduce costs for ADCs to share samples, while also making it easier for researchers to request samples by going to a single biorepository.

Participants/specimens must meet the following criteria:

- Participants must have UDS data at NACC.
- Participants must have been consented using language allowing for the sharing of specimens and data with external researchers.
- Specimens must have been collected using uniform protocols, which can be provided to NCRAD for review prior to approval for specimen banking.

NCRAD cannot reimburse ADCs for the collection of specimens. However, NCRAD can provide the following:

- NCRAD will pay all shipping costs to transfer existing samples meeting the criteria listed above to NCRAD.
- For ADCs interested in collecting samples prospectively and sending them to NCRAD, NCRAD can provide specimen collection kits and will support the costs for shipping samples to NCRAD.
- NCRAD will distribute samples to requestors.
- NCRAD will provide an expanded annual report to participating ADCs that will track the receipt and distribution of these additional specimen aliquots.

Centralizing a wider range of biospecimens at NCRAD increases their availability to other researchers and also minimizes the costs to the ADCs to pull, prepare, and distribute specimen aliquots to other researchers.

NCRAD Web Tools

Please remember to visit the following page on the NCRAD website to learn about sample requirements if you are interested in submitting samples: https://www.ncrad.org/sample_requirements.html.

Also, if you are interested in requesting samples from NCRAD, please visit this page for information about samples currently available for distribution: https://www.ncrad.org/accessing_data.html.

A Central Repository with samples available to match the rich dataset collected for all subjects seen in the ADCs is a very valuable resource for the field of AD research. We hope you will continue to support this effort!

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NIAGADS GenomicsDB v 3.1 Now Available

NIAGADS is pleased to announce the release of the Genomics Database v. 3.1, which features a major face lift intended to improve user experience. NIAGADS GenomicsDB is a public resource that researchers can access without having to formally request data. This release greatly improves the visualization of summary statistics on the genome browser section of the site and adopts positional variant identifiers to allow more precise linkage of annotations to variants. It also introduces new variant annotations such as 1000 Genomes population frequencies, a shift from NCBI to Ensembl for the gene reference, and updated gene and variant annotations from dbSNP, UniProt, and other external resources. In addition, eight GWAS datasets from three new studies are now available to search or browse on the NIAGADS Genome browser. NIAGADS is looking forward to user feedback and encourages those with comments or questions to email genomicsdb@niagads.org.

The Genomics Database can be found [here](#). The new GWAS datasets are as follows:

NG00053: IGAP (2013): ADGC Subset

Summary statistics from the International Genomics of Alzheimer's Project (IGAP) 2013 GWAS study of Alzheimer's disease: Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Consortium (ADGC) cohorts only

NG00055: CSF (2017)

Summary statistics of genome-wide association study for established Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) biomarkers (tau, tau phosphorylated at threonine 181 (ptau), and A β 42) for Alzheimer's disease (n=3000).

NG00056: Transethnic LOAD

Summary statistics from a transethnic genome-wide association study for late-onset Alzheimer's Disease was conducted among multiple population, including whites of European Ancestry, African-Americans, Japanese, and Israeli-Arabs.

New Datasets available at <https://www.niagads.org/datasets>

NG00057: Laser Capture and RNA Sequencing of Microglia in human brain

- Mastroeni et al. (2017)

PI: Diego Mastroeni, ASU-Banner Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center

This dataset includes RNA sequencing data from laser capture microglia of six each AD and PD cases and cognitively normal controls. No formal application is required to access this dataset.