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Thank you for your letter, we address your specific queries regarding access to human GWAS data below.

Any researcher in the field of medical research is eligible to apply for access to the data, with these applications reviewed by an Independent Data Access Committee (IDAC). Access may only be considered for applicants planning scientific research that will further the field of malaria or human health. Any applicants of non-health related research projects (e.g. anthropological research) are advised to directly contact the original authorizing Regional Ethics Committee (REC) in the respective countries where samples were collected. In these cases, access would only be granted if approved by the REC as it is beyond the remit of the IDAC to make an access decision. Given these restrictions, it is unlikely that companies not carrying out medical research, insurance companies, law enforcement or immigration services would be granted data access. MalariaGEN does not have any commercial partnerships.

As per our data release policy (<https://www.malariagen.net/data/terms-use/human-gwas-data>) only genomic data is shared, no meta-data is available. This constitutes sets of raw data that have passed appropriate data quality control checks. The datasets to be released do not contain any personal identifiers or links to personal identifiers, but do contain information about country of origin and sometimes contain information about ethnicity.

Regarding data security, our data is held by the European Genome-Phenome Archive (EGA); their security overview is attached. With respect to intellectual property, we do not sell MalariaGEN data but, as outlined in our policy (<https://www.malariagen.net/sites/default/files/content/project/files/JointPolicy-DataSharing-IntellectualProperty-Publications.pdf>) our position is that all results will be released directly into the public domain via publication and then the MalariaGEN web-site unless IP protection for either MalariaGEN or our partners is necessary to enhance technology transfer to Low and Middle Income countries.

The consent forms used to collect samples and process data are specific to the contributing studies and are held by the contributing PI for each data set, not by MalariaGEN. If a participant were to withdraw their consent their data would be removed from the EGA and our open data sets where required.

Yours Sincerely

