

Agenda

Pathogen Genomics Funders Forum (PGFF)

21 February 2025

Agenda

1. **Brief Introduction** (Greg and Caxton)
 - a. Main objectives for today:
 - i. Input on in-person meeting
 - ii. Supply chain discussion
 - b. Brief updates:
 - i. Webinar series — collaboration with WHO/IPSN
 1. 1st Thursday of month, 13:00 CET
 2. Starts April 2; topic TBD (possibly mPox)
 - ii. Forum charter — to be shared shortly, adopted at in-person meeting
 - iii. Turmoil in the USG agencies
 - c. Brief announcements from funders*
2. **Supply chain** (details of this meeting to follow, but we will be joined by Maeve Magner and Trevor Peter to begin a discussion of when we can start addressing this issue)
 - a. Proposed supply chain meeting in June (SFA Foundation)
 - b. [Discussion led by Maeve and Trevor]
3. **In-person meeting in London** (see concept note sent before January call)
 - a. Updates on agenda
 - b. Input needed: potential topics for in-person meeting (see list below)
 - c. Probable participants so far
4. **Future virtual meetings**
 - a. Discussion: utility of “funder spotlight” section?[†]
 - b. Next meeting (April?)

* This is a new section of the agenda for brief announcements by funders. We encourage members to speak up on topics, such as upcoming requests for proposals or upcoming meetings, that they think may be of interest to the funder community. We encourage but don't require that funders let the PGFF secretariat (pgsfforum@scienceforafrica.foundation) know in advance of announcements they wish to make.

[†] This would be a section of the meeting for one funder to present on their current work and perhaps on their investment strategy around pathogen genomics. The section, could for example, consist of a 10-minute presentation with a 5-minute Q&A. We envision having funders present on this at the in-person meeting, so we would want to make sure that this section isn't overly duplicative.

Potential topics for in-person meeting

The following is a tentative list of potential topics for discussion at the in-person meeting. We're looking for input on which of these would be a priority for participants and what other topics would be of interest. These are not in any particular order.

1. What is sustainability in the context of pathogen genomics?
During the pandemic, many LMICs were supported to establish genomic sequencing capacity for the first time, often with the hope that it would serve a use beyond the pandemic. But what is sustainability in the context of pathogen genomics? Does that mean government funding and ownership? Does that mean the ability to successfully apply for funding from other sources? How much should governments be expected to contribute, and does that depend on the use-case (see below)?
2. Global versus local priorities: how to approach this issue?
Use-cases vary in their utility. With some, the utility is mostly global: for example, SARS-CoV-2 or influenza sequencing are largely used to inform decisions about development of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics—decisions that are generally made at the global level. These use-cases have mainly global utility. Other use-cases—outbreak investigation, for example—may have mainly local utility. Most use-cases have varying amounts of both local and global utility. Does this matter when funding initiatives? How should this impact funding decisions?
3. Platforms for pathogen genomic analysis: how to approach these and where to standardize?
Fundors often receive proposals to build systems for simplifying or automating bioinformatics or other analysis or visualization. This typically brings up a set of questions and concerns: are similar systems already in use?; is this something that will be widely used?; will we end up being asked to fund this indefinitely?; what happens to users if funding does stop?; are there relevant standards for the system and how can we be assured they're being adhered to? It may be useful in this session for fundors to describe the sorts of proposals they're seeing and how they're approaching this.
4. Would it be useful to maintain an online list of currently funded projects?
If so, how would this be funded? How often would fundors be asked to update the information? What information should be included?
5. Data sharing policies and data sovereignty
Are fundors asking recipients to include data sharing policies? Are they requiring a data-sharing plan? How are desires to promote open data being balanced with concerns about data ownership and data sovereignty?

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