

**ImmGen Data Release Policy:** The primary purpose of the ImmGen Project is to develop and publish a global analysis of gene expression patterns and their regulatory networks across the immune system of the mouse. As is now standard practice in large-scale genomic research projects, ImmGen follows a policy of releasing data as quickly as possible, anticipating that the project's data will be used in many ways, such as investigating the expression of particular genes or gene sets, understanding patterns of immune function and genetic regulation, developing new analytical methods, and in guiding the selection of genes for further studies of immunological processes or immune-related diseases.

ImmGen, like other large-scale genomic projects, does not consider the deposition of its data into its own and public databases to be the equivalent of publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Therefore, although the data are publicly available rapidly upon curation, the producers still consider them to be formally unpublished. The release of pre-publication data from large resource-generating scientific projects was codified at a meeting held in Fort Lauderdale in January 2003; a policy statement based on the outcome of the meeting is available on the NHGRI web site (<http://www.genome.gov/10506537>). The recommendations of the "Ft Lauderdale Guidelines" address the roles and responsibilities of data producers, data users, and funders of "community resource projects," with the aim of establishing and maintaining an appropriate balance between the interests of data users in rapid access to data and the needs of data producers to receive recognition for their work. The guidelines support responsible use of the data to ensure that first-rate data producers will continue to participate in such projects and produce and quickly release valuable large-scale data sets. "Responsible use" was defined as allowing the data producers to have the opportunity to publish the initial analyses of the data, as articulated at the outset of the project. For ImmGen, these analyses include focused studies of the data performed on one lineage by one of the participating laboratories, as well as more global meta-analyses involving the whole data group.

As such, ImmGen data are available to all users for any purpose, with the understanding that users will not, within a period of 6 months following release onto the ImmGen or other websites, submit for publication the results of an analysis primarily centered on the ImmGen datasets, without prior consultation and potentially in collaboration with the relevant ImmGen investigators. This embargo period is not applicable for applications where the ImmGen data are used to formulate hypotheses that are then tested experimentally.

As recommended by the Ft. Lauderdale Guidelines for a community resource project, ImmGen has published a so-called "marker paper" describing the goals of the project and its data release policy. Investigators who use data from the Project are requested to acknowledge ImmGen and reference this publication: The Immunological Genome Project: network of gene expression in immune cells. Heng TS, et al, Immunological Genome Project Consortium. *Nat Immunol.* 2008 10:1091.

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