



Public Population Project in Genomics



CALL FOR NOMINATION:
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP LEADER
IWG 4 – Epidemiology and Biostatistics

The P3G Consortium is currently in the process of renewing one of its IWG four leaders: Epidemiology and Biostatistics whose mandate is coming to term. The mandate of the current leaders is renewable or a new leader can be nominated. For P3G, it is an opportunity to revisit some of the key priorities for each IWG and maintain the vitality of the IWG groups.

The mission of IWG 4 will be answering to the ongoing need to develop strategic epidemiological and statistical methods allowing the analysis of data pooled from large-scale epidemiological studies. The merging as well as the comparison of large databases raise major problems related to epidemiological bias, harmonization of study designs, standardisation of variables, statistical power, etc.. However, if adequate analyses models are developed, the availability of such common databases would greatly facilitate the investigation of the impact of genes and environment on heterogeneous diseases. Furthermore, the rapid evolution of high throughput genotyping technologies results in the need to work on efficient methods for statistical analysis of huge amount of genotypes.

Close collaboration between IWG 4 and other IWGs will provide a crucial underpinning to the scientific development of P³G and future research in genetic epidemiology.

Nominees are invited to submit a short CV (maximum of 2 pages) describing their current and past affiliation as well as their main contributions to the field. They must also prepare a short description (maximum of 2 pages) of their vision for the IWG workplan and objectives over the next 2 years (key issues, projects anticipated, expected contribution, challenges faced by P3G members, potential outcomes). Candidates must be P3G members at the moment of the selection process by the P3G Board of Directors.

Attached is a complete description of the IWG leaders' role and responsibilities. Candidates should submit their nomination via email to: secretariat@p3g.org to the Chair of the P3G Board of Directors, Bartha Maria Knoppers, by September 4, 2009.

International Working Groups

Four **International Working Groups** (IWGs) have been formed within P3G. IWGs have the broad multidisciplinary expertise needed to optimize and harmonize the management and research use of population-based biobanks and large cohort studies. They are generally composed of a delegate from amongst the Charter and Associate members of P3G, the head of each Core, ad hoc P3G members that are experts in the field, and a delegate from the secretariat. Each IWG is thus a forum of discussion gathering scientists from P3G biobanks and external experts. The role of IWG 4: (i) identify issues concerning international studies in genetic epidemiology and biobanks, and suggest strategies or tools that need to be developed to address these challenges, (ii) monitor progress of research activities and deliverables for P³G in accordance with the P³G strategic goals, (iii) ensure coordination between the Cores under its umbrella, and (iv) stimulate dissemination of results through the P3G Observatory or publications. The specific themes that the IWGs will address have emerged from extensive discussions held at a series of international meetings. As the work progresses, IWGs will prioritize the content to be included in the P3G Observatory oversee the content to be included in the P³G Observatory. The specific themes that the IWGs will address have emerged from extensive discussions held at a series of international meetings. As the work progresses, IWGs will prioritize the content to be included in the P³G Observatory. IWG will rely on the Cores either to develop and/or optimize tools or methods, or to provide standards to the international community. IWGs can also create subcommittees or expert panels on an ad hoc basis, to address specific issues, particularly when broad consultation would enhance the planning of new P³G initiatives. The IWGs are distinct but they interrelate in numerous ways. IWG members will be invited to participate in more than one IWG, in order to ensure communication in regards to overlapping issues that need to be addressed by several IWGs. IWG organizes regular teleconferences and meetings. Any P³G member can join in IWG discussions.

IWG Leader Candidate

The ideal IWG leader is an international expert recognized by peers as a leader in the field covered by the IWG. The leader agrees to generously share expertise with the group and to act in a disinterested fashion in promoting the sharing and the generation of new knowledge in the field of population genomics so as to reach P3G's goal of promoting harmonization, optimization and collaboration between biobanks. The goal is to stimulate discussions and provide a democratic environment for international exchange. This person is not only a leader for the group, but also has the capacity to consider and integrate pluralist approaches to a problem, in a multidisciplinary environment. Excellent communication, team-building and diplomacy skills are thus required.

IWG Leader's Role

IWG leaders occupy a privileged strategic position within P3G. The role of IWG leaders is to provide leadership and coordination at the international level for P3G activities under the umbrella of their IWG. IWG leaders have the broad multi-disciplinary expertise needed to: help prioritize the activities of their respective International Working Group, identify the scientific content, draft the agenda for activities, meetings and teleconferences, and gather the international expertise so as to work on issues raised within their IWG. Along with other IWG members, the leader identifies the challenges raised by population genomics and sets the agenda to move these issues forward and promote collaboration between experts and biobanks. IWG leaders, are members of P3G and are selected by the Board of Directors for 2 year terms (renewable once).

IWG leaders are *de facto* members of the P3G Steering Committee and the Executive Steering Committee. Along with other members of the Steering Committee, they set the overall P3G calendar of activities (subject to approval of the Board of Directors) and help identify the broad scientific objectives and milestones of P3G. They interact directly with the Steering Committee Leader and Chief Scientific Officer of P3G.

IWG leaders offer their expertise and leadership in identifying and prioritizing issues requiring input or action by the international community in order to meet the goals of building an international network of biobank leaders and supporting the harmonization and optimization of biobanks. They help to identify colleagues that could also contribute to these goals and engage them in the discussion. IWG leaders help plan IWG meetings (held twice a year, usually as one part of a full P3G meeting). Generally, they act as moderators for their IWG meetings and help catalyze the work generated in IWGs for international dissemination through the Observatory, publications, or otherwise. They interact on a regular basis with the Secretariat for the preparation of IWG activities. They participate in monthly Executive Steering Committee meeting teleconferences. Between P3G activities, IWG leaders keep in touch with their IWG members using communication tools prepared by the Secretariat (newsletter, website, etc). They also keep in contact with the Core leaders in their sector and receive progress reports.

P3G Secretariat will make all efforts to support the IWG leaders in these tasks. P3G Secretariat provides logistical support for setting up P3G meetings, for instance, by sending invitations to experts identified by the IWG leader, preparing the agenda and printing material, and arranging appropriate meeting rooms, etc.. It also ensures coordination and leadership in communication with members. The Secretariat will interact directly with experts and contributors to ensure continued progress in the work undertaken during a meeting (follow-up, progress report, etc).

Travel fees for IWG leaders to a P3G meeting (held twice a year) are covered by P3G, with pre-authorization by the Board. Arrangements for the reimbursement of other fees (such as communication fees) can also be discussed with the Secretariat.

Nomination Process

A call for nomination is being sent to all P3G members and posted on the P3G website. Nominees are invited to submit a short CV (maximum 2 pages) and a short description (max. 2 pages) of their vision for the IWG workplan and objectives (projects anticipated, expected contribution, challenges faced by P3G members, potential outcomes, etc).

All the applications will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Steering Committee Leader, and a candidate will be selected. As much as possible, the IWG leaders should vary in gender and in geographic distribution.