

How Our Future Health can support SMEs

Introduction

Our Future Health is an ambitious collaboration between the public, charity and private sectors to build the UK's largest health research programme, bringing people together to develop new ways to prevent, detect and treat disease.

We are creating a globally leading, population-scale resource and research tissue bank, including data from 5 million people, that reflects the socioeconomic, regional and ethnic diversity of the UK population. This will enable unprecedented insights into the causes of disease, including genetic susceptibility, lifestyle behaviours, environmental factors and the wider determinants of health; and enable the training of a new generation of artificial intelligence (AI) models.

As well as our scale, we offer unique value that differentiates us from other research tissue banks. Our participants will be offered personalised health feedback and consent to be recontacted for additional research studies, giving them the opportunity to improve their health. This enables researchers to selectively invite our participants, based on health-related information, to join additional research studies for which we can offer bespoke sample access, speeding-up recruitment to clinical studies, contributing to the UK becoming a more attractive place to host clinical trials. Furthermore, we generate unique insights into the health of the whole population, shaping health policies and enabling the assessment of the impact of interventions at scale.

We have already recruited more than 1.5 million people, at a faster rate and lower cost than any study of its kind, making Our Future Health one of the largest and most comprehensive health research cohorts globally (based on recency and relevance of exposures), enabling the generation of insights today for the diagnoses of tomorrow. Many researchers are already using our dataset and the first research outputs are now being published across global forums and journals. We have started to provide feedback to our participants about their own health and are now generating population health insights from the dataset which are being used by policy makers and health planners for the wider public good. We are sharing knowledge gained from implementing our pioneering methods.

What value can SMEs gain from Our Future Health?

The Our Future Health resource and dataset provides a number of unique opportunities for SMEs:

- Our **population-scale** resource gives us unprecedented insights into the causes of disease and enables research into rare diseases;
- Our data is **rich and recently collected**, improving the precision of research and selection of participants for follow-on studies;
- We will enable SMEs to securely **bring their own additional data, tools, and code**, to conduct their research including training AI models and generating new products. We support advanced analytics, the generation of AI-powered insights and opportunities for co-development with other innovators;
- We have an **activated cohort**, providing more opportunities for further data collection and **enabling recontact for further studies**;

- We are able to **selectively invite** participants, based on presence / absence of risk factors and disease or other characteristics to join additional research studies;
- A large proportion of our participants are **recruited before they develop disease**, facilitating research into the early detection and prevention of disease;
- Our resource is reflective of the socioeconomic and ethnic **diversity** of the UK population enabling research including groups of the population who have been less well represented in health research.

How can SMEs access the data?

SMEs can apply to access the data by registering as researchers and then submitting a study application for review by our Access Board. The Access Board works to ensure that the resource is used for public good and aligned to Our Future Health objectives and is in line with the consent that volunteers have given. Applicants will receive a response in relation to their study application within 60 days of submission.

We ask all researchers who will have access to the data to sign our Researcher terms and conditions. The Principal Investigator for the study will also be required to sign the Resource terms and conditions. These mechanisms enable us to provide assurances to our volunteers that their data is being used responsibly and for public good.

We charge for access to the data. In future, we will also charge for access to biological samples and for re-contact studies. As a not-for-profit organisation, any revenue that we generate from Access Fees will help to cover the costs of running the charity and will be reinvested to further our mission of enabling people to live longer, healthier lives.

We have a tiered pricing model for access to data, meaning that different researchers will pay different prices depending on their ability to pay.

Data Access	Commercial fees, variable by SME size; reach out directly for quote; discounts for Early Adopters to partnerships@ourfuturehealth.org.uk
Compute	Pay-as-you-go model, with free initial £50 credit for every researcher
Support	Early Adopters gain not just cost benefits, but also enhanced engagement and co-development opportunities

What financial support is available to SMEs?

We are currently running an early adopter programme for SMEs. This includes access to the resource at a discounted rate, for a period of 12 months, in exchange for support and feedback as we develop this resource and make it as good as it can be for the SME community.



We are also working closely with UKRI to design a data access scheme in which UKRI cover a proportion of the data access fees for UK-based SMEs. This voucher scheme should be live in the Autumn.

What support is available to SMEs to access and interpret the data?

SMEs can either access and analyse the data in the Our Future Health Trusted Research Environment (TRE), provided by DNAnexus, or they can apply to have their own analysis environment accredited so that they can host the Our Future Health data for the purpose of their study.

The Our Future Health TRE provides a library of tools, apps and workflows to enable genomics, translational, statistical and machine learning analysis. We provide a [full list of available tools](#). We are also working on improving the capability to enable researchers to securely bring in their own tools, apps and workflows to execute against the Our Future Health data.

We also provide extensive, publicly available, documentation in relation to our data describing how these data have been collected, modelled, processed and released into the TRE. In [our data documentation](#), we describe any anomalies we have identified in the data during our data quality and assurance checks.

Finally, we provide support throughout the whole process through our friendly researcher access and support team available at access@ourfuturehealth.org.uk.