

## Network News

### Research Center Spotlight: WashU PE-CGS

At the WashU PE-CGS, participants have the option to receive up to three types of sequencing results: tumor biomarkers, cancer-related germline mutations, and secondary germline findings in accordance with ACMG recommendations. Currently, participants review an information sheet with a study coordinator and select which types of results they wish to receive. We will soon launch a randomized control trial comparing this approach to a self-guided online decision aid that has been tested in other clinical research settings.



We have worked with the Genetics Advisor team to develop customized modules reflecting the goals of the WashU PE-CGS and our patient population. The customization includes a new biomarker module highlighted by an 80-second animated video explaining the difference between somatic and germline results (see image). We are currently completing usability testing with 12 WashU PE-CGS participants. Feedback from these will be used to hone the modules ahead of the recruitment of 240 additional participants in early fall 2024. Primary and secondary outcomes include decisional conflict and knowledge, respectively, and we will examine the impact of race, genomic literacy, socioeconomic status, urban/rural location, and stage at diagnosis on results.

### New Publication from the Network in the Journal of Clinical Oncology

Despite patients' interests to contribute to cancer research, significant barriers like complex consent processes, data exchange challenges, and EHR interoperability hinder progress. Such obstacles have historically prevented researchers from fully honoring the contributions patients are willing to make, which have the potential to close knowledge gaps in cancer research. The Participant

Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing Network is poised to address these barriers, and its new Commentary in Journal of Clinical Oncology delves into these barriers and suggests actionable solutions that could benefit oncology clinical research as a whole. [Learn more here.](#)



### Early-Career Investigator Interview Series

Featuring:  
Fernanda Martins Rodrigues, Ph.D.



### Featuring Early-Career Investigators: Dr. Fernanda Martins Rodrigues

The Office of Cancer Clinical Proteomics Research at the National Cancer Institute interviewed PE-CGS member, Dr. Fernanda Martins Rodrigues, a post-doctoral research associate at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis. In this sixth installment of the Investigator Q&A series, Dr. Rodrigues discusses her current work, what drove her to pursue a career in proteomics, the critical role of ethics in research, and

more. [Learn more about this interview here.](#)

# Ways to Collaborate

## Subcommittee Updates

We invite all members of the PE-CGS Network to consider joining our scientific subcommittees; please discuss this opportunity with your team and contact the Coordinating Center to be added: [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

- **Health Equity (8/6):** The subcommittee met and Dr. Hyoshin Kim from the PE-CGS Coordinating Center gave an informative review of PE-CGS Common Data Elements related to Social Determinants of Health data. This led to the discussion on the potential standardization of demographic and clinical data for future use across the network.
- **Participant Engagement (8/8):** The meeting was used as an “office hours” session for comments, questions, or discussions related to the nearly finalized PE-CGS Engagement Catalogs paper. This paper documents the approaches to participant and community engagement and optimization across the PE-CGS network, and is a product of the subcommittee.
- **Return of Results:** The subcommittee did not meet this month.

# Ways to Communicate

## PE-CGS Publication and Conference Tracker

The Network has a [tracker](#) to document the status of PE-CGS-related publications from idea stage to completion. The tracker also provides option for you to request assistance from the Coordinating Center in finding collaborators. Please share information in the Tracker about your center's work you plan to publish.

We also have a dedicated [Conference tracker](#) to monitor the progress of PE-CGS-related abstract submissions for scientific meetings and conferences. Please update this Tracker with information about abstracts you plan to submit or have already submitted to conferences.

To request access, please enter your email address in the Tracker and notify the Coordinating Center by sending an email to [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

# Upcoming Events

## Register for the 2024 PE-CGS Annual Meeting

The 2024 PE-CGS Annual Meeting will be held at the Eric P. Newman Education Center, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri from **Tuesday, October 8th at 8 am CT to Wednesday, October 9th at 4 pm CT**. Please [register](#) for the meeting by **Friday September 13, 2024** whether you are attending in person or virtually and visit the [event website](#) for additional details including travel and lodging information. If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting, please contact the PE-CGS Coordinating Center at [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

## Upcoming PE-CGS Network Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting
8/16	12 pm ET	Annual Meeting Planning
8/29	3 pm ET	Network Managers
9/3	11 am ET	Health Equity
9/5	3 pm ET	Steering Committee

## Funding and Opportunities

### AIM-AHEAD Research and Fellowship opportunities in AI/ML and Health Equity

The Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD) program seeks to increase the participation and engagement of the researchers and communities currently underrepresented in AI/ML modeling and applications through mutually beneficial partnerships. The Program launched several open funding and fellowship opportunities at the intersections of AI/ML and health disparities. Find application deadlines for these opportunities on the [website](#).

### RFI on Recommendations to Improve Postdoctoral Experiences

The National Institutes of Health is seeking feedback from the biomedical research community through a follow-up Request for Information (RFI) as part of its efforts to better support the postdoctoral scholar workforce. Through the RFI, the NIH is seeking additional specific suggestions, evidence-based strategies, and relevant data or related experiences that will help inform their potential strategies. **Feedback will be accepted electronically until October 23, 2024.** [Learn more here](#).

### Learn more from the NASEM Workshop on Sustaining Community Engagement in Genomics Research

This hybrid workshop examined how researchers could more meaningfully engage and sustain interactions with historically underrepresented communities in research to foster their participation in genomics and precision health studies. The overarching goal of the workshop was to help improve the quality of genomics research by understanding where obstacles to sustained community involvement remain. [Access the presentation recordings and slides from each presenter here](#).

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#### PE-CGS SHORT READS submissions

Have news to share with the PE-CGS Network community?  
For consideration, send your news to [pe-cgs@osumc.edu](mailto:pe-cgs@osumc.edu).

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