

The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) is an international, nonprofit alliance formed in 2013 to accelerate the potential of research and medicine to advance human health. Bringing together 500+ leading organizations working in healthcare, research, patient advocacy, life science, and information technology, the GA4GH community is working together to create frameworks and standards to enable the responsible, voluntary, and secure sharing of genomic and health-related data. The GA4GH Researcher Identification team is focused on one end of genomic and health related data access control. They are working to define standards that define researchers that may access a dataset and the credentials they must supply. This team works in concert with a team focused on data use restrictions to create unified standards to automate these two important aspects of data access policy.

As part of the [GA4GH authz/authn draft specification](#) GA4GH is seeking to create a base profile of OIDC assertions about the identity of a user that would allow data custodians to set up systems that make decisions on granting access to protected research datasets based on such attributes. These assertions include claims such as the home institute for the user and other “proof” of research activity, to support data access policy models based on the registration of researchers. We therefore strongly support the proposal for a REFEDS Assurance Framework (RAF) to build compatible and secure registration systems internationally. In particular, the adoption of RAF assurance profiles by universities will considerably facilitate the implementation of registered access data access models by enabling more reliable claims related to institutional affiliation, thereby strengthening the accountability of users within federated communities such as the data sharing communities that GA4GH seeks to support.