

Guidelines and policies for 4DN Associate Membership

The NIH 4D Nucleome Program (<https://commonfund.nih.gov/4Dnucleome>), funded as part of the NIH Common Fund, aims to understand the principles underlying the three-dimensional organization of the nucleus, the role this organization plays in regulating gene expression and cellular function in the context of normal development and differentiation, and ultimately how disrupting this organization may contribute to disease. Researchers funded as part of this program (are developing novel technologies, resources, and data intended to catalyze research in this field.

The 4DN Program offers researchers not currently funded by 4DN the opportunity to apply to join the program as non-voting associate members. Associate members are expected to contribute to the research goals of the consortium by generating data in common cell lines that have been selected by 4DN members for use in cross-consortium projects (<https://www.4dnucleome.org/cell-lines.html>), and making these data freely available through the 4DN Data Coordination and Integration Center (DCIC), and/or by contributing to cross-consortium integrative analyses.

Associate members are also expected to be actively engaged in 4DN activities (i.e. participate in working groups as appropriate, may attend the 4DN annual meeting) and to abide by all policies approved by the consortium (<https://www.4dnucleome.org/policies.html>), by the International Human Epigenome Consortium – of which 4DN is a member (<http://ihec-epigenomes.org/about/policies-and-guidelines/>), and any other pertinent NIH policies. Failure to abide by these rules and policies may result in suspension of membership. Prior to attending closed 4DN grantee meetings, associate members will be required to sign a conflict of interest certification.

Investigators that wish to apply for Associate Member status should submit a letter of intent to Dr. Judy Mietz (mietzj@mail.nih.gov) with a cc to the 4DN Organizational Hub (oh@4dnucleome.org) that describes their planned contribution (i.e. datasets, analyses), and how it will contribute to the mission of 4DN. The letter should also include a statement that indicates their willingness to abide by all relevant policies, as stated above. Letters will be brought to the 4DN Steering Committee for discussion and approval by Steering Committee members and NIH staff. Applicants will be notified of the decision following this meeting.

Associate membership does not directly or indirectly imply a commitment to funding by the NIH.