

Access to UK Biobank: Streamlining the Process

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Principles of accessing UK Biobank

- Open access resource, available for bona fide researchers to conduct health-related research that is in the public interest
- Available for use by researchers from academia and commercial companies, both in the UK and overseas
- No preferential access (and limited exclusive access for data generated by researchers)
- Researchers are obliged to return their results to UK Biobank so they can be shared with others

Research Scope

- Applications to access the UK Biobank resource can:
 - be broad – they do not need to focus on specific risk factors or health outcomes
 - involve a range of genotypes and/or phenotypes
e.g. GWAS, PheWAS
 - be purely methodological
e.g. development of methods to create derived data fields
- The main consideration is that the scope of the research project can be objectively defined
i.e. the intended research goals are clear

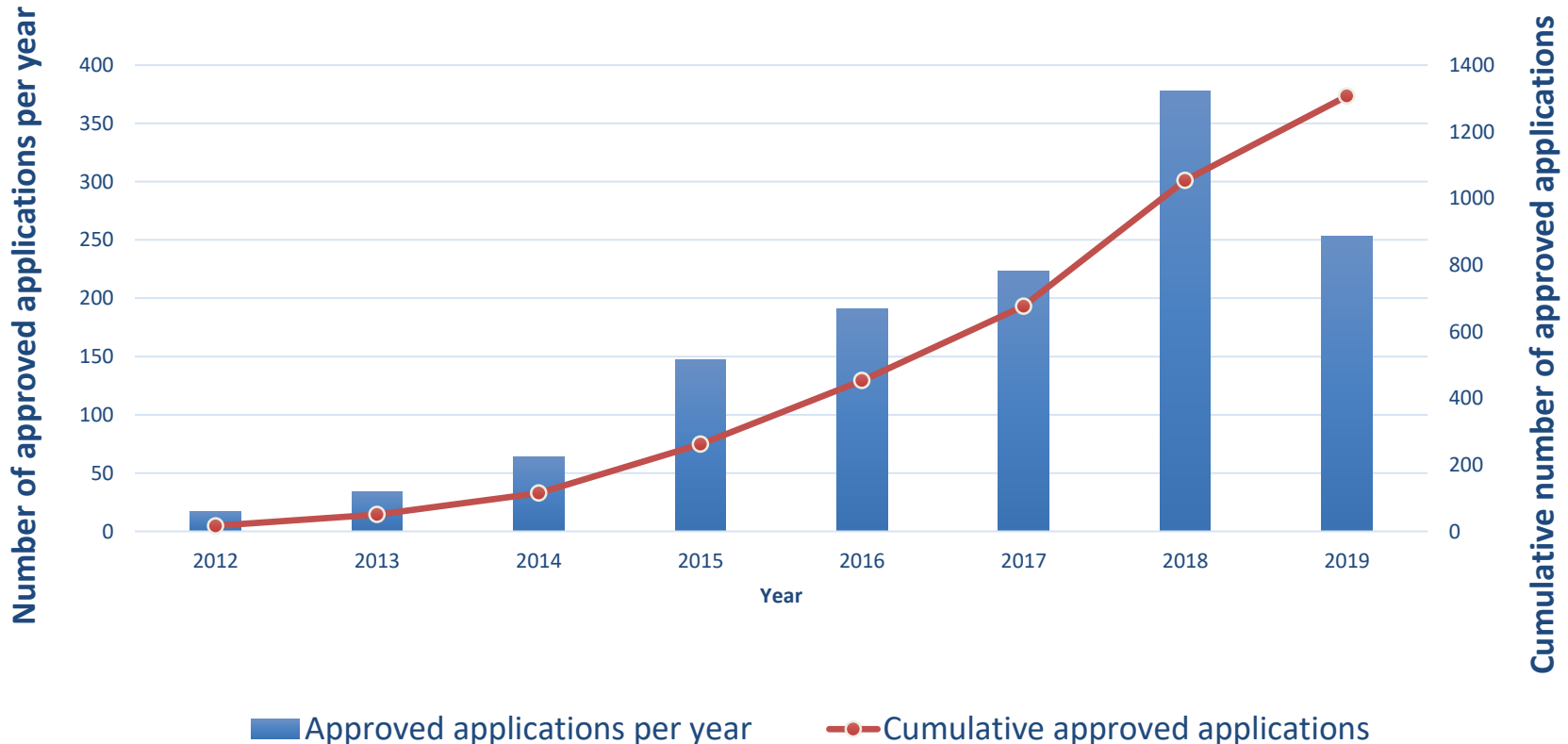
Use of the UK Biobank Resource: Researchers

UK Biobank Approved Researcher Registrations

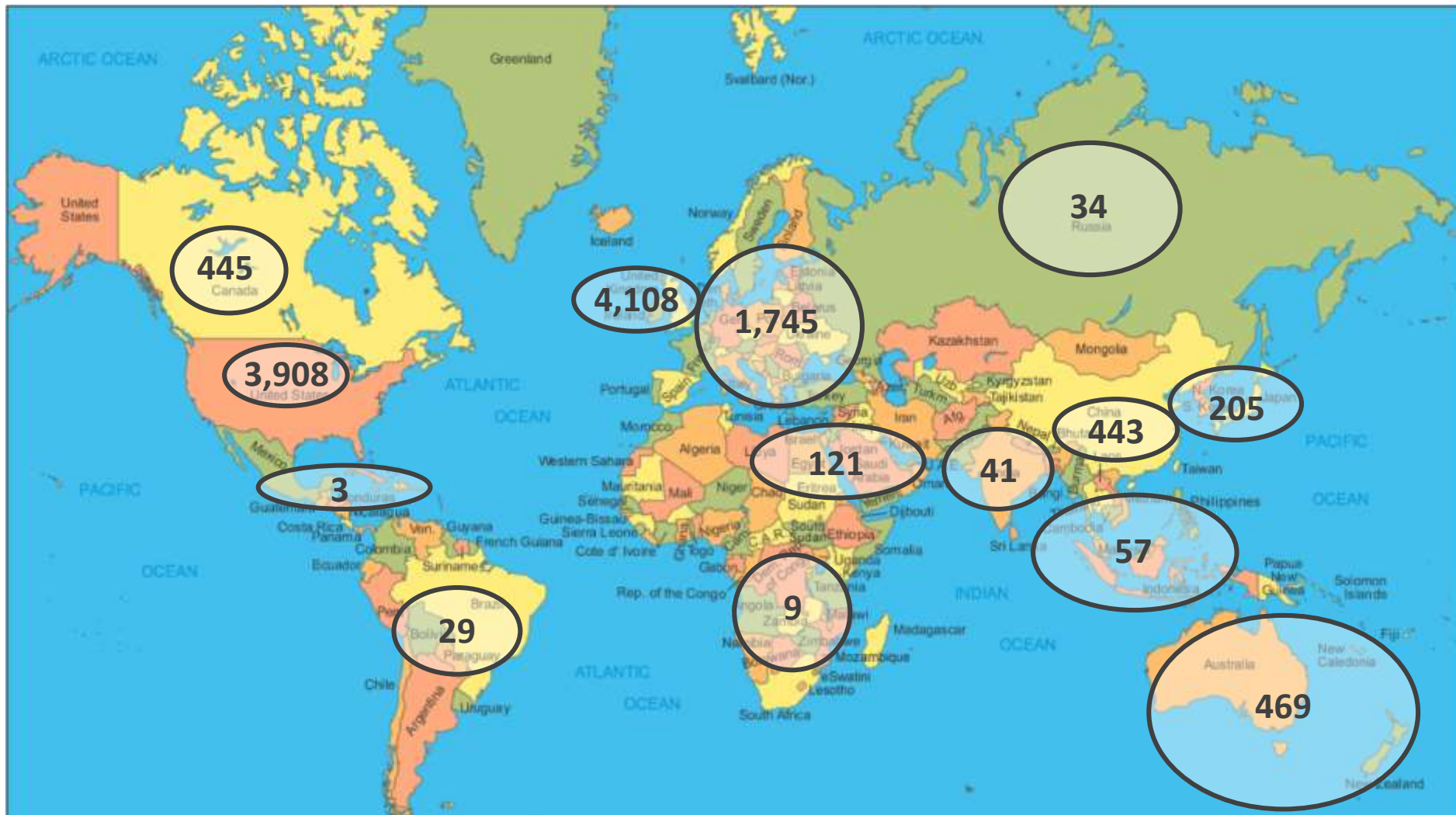


Use of the UK Biobank Resource: Applications

UK Biobank Approved Applications



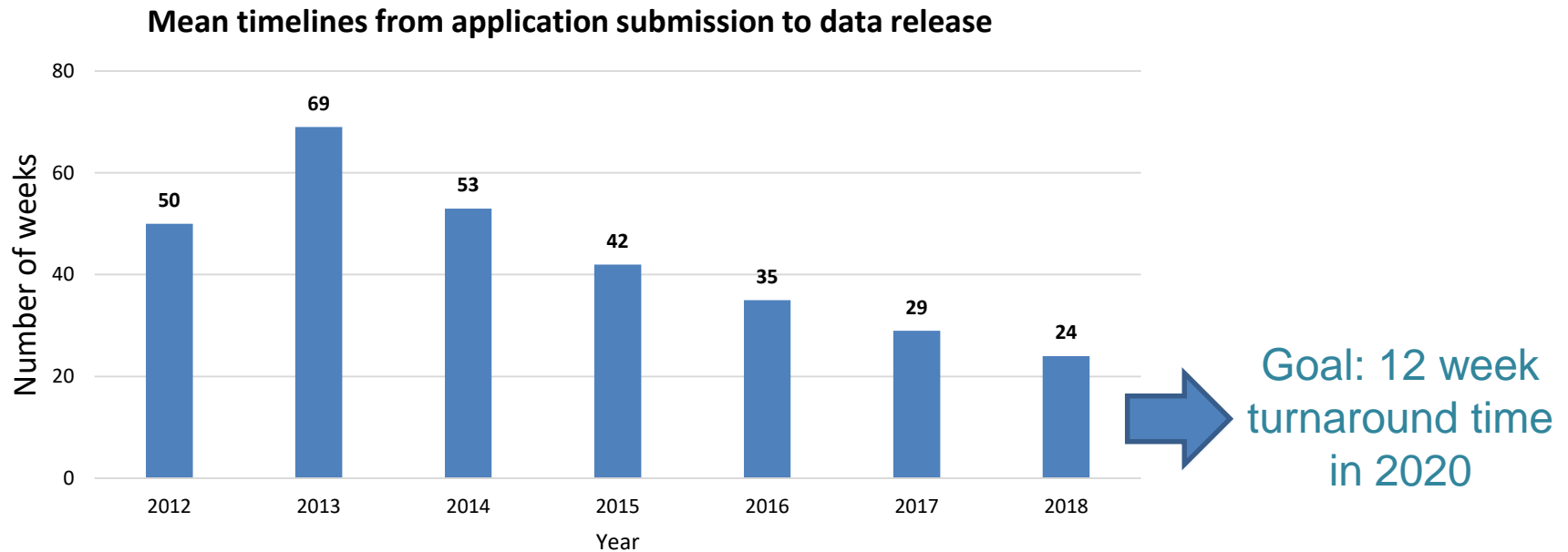
International use of the UK Biobank Resource: Locations of researchers worldwide



How do I get Access?

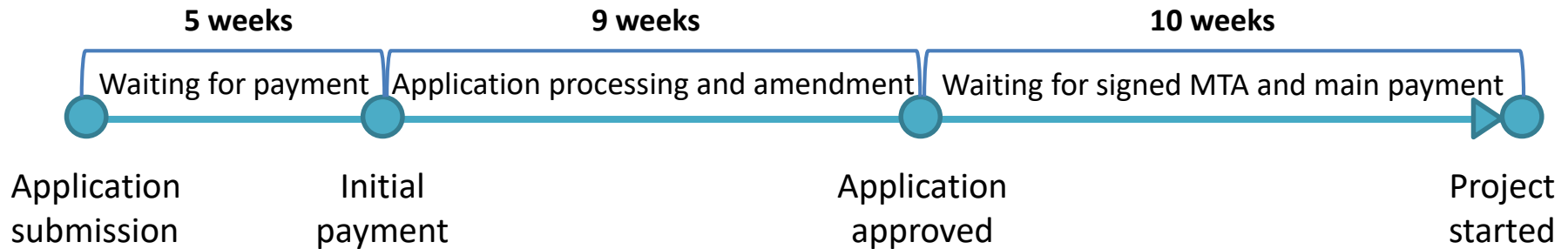
- Access is described in our **Access Policy** and is managed via our **Access Management System (AMS)**:
 - **Registration:** We check the identity of each researcher to confirm their bona fides as part of their approval
 - **Application:** We assess whether the application meets the criteria of being for health-related science that is in the public interest
 - **MTA and Payment:** there is a small cost-recovery access fee and researchers must enter into a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) before data (and samples) are released

How long does it take to access data?



We are currently focussed on reducing the time from application submission to data release

Where is this time typically spent?



Upcoming process improvements that we are making:

- Removal of initial payment (combine with main payment) – early Q3 2019
- Introduction of a standardised basket – early Q3 2019
- Improved signposting and help/support - creating tutorial videos to guide the stages of the access process including signing and returning MTAs – by end of Q4 2019

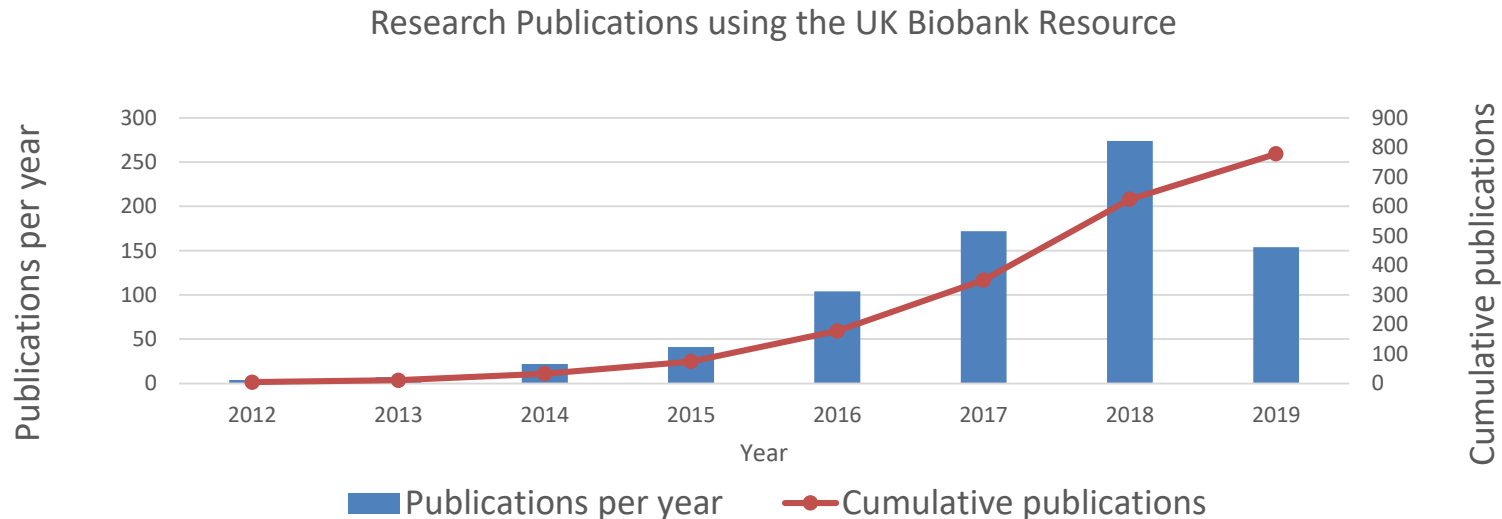
What can I do to speed up the process?

More than half of the overall processing time is in your hands!

- Considerations you may wish to make:
 - Pay online
 - Involve your legal team early
 - Be responsive to queries from the Access team
 - Sign and return your MTA electronically

What impact is UK Biobank making?

There are now over 750 published research papers using the UK Biobank resource



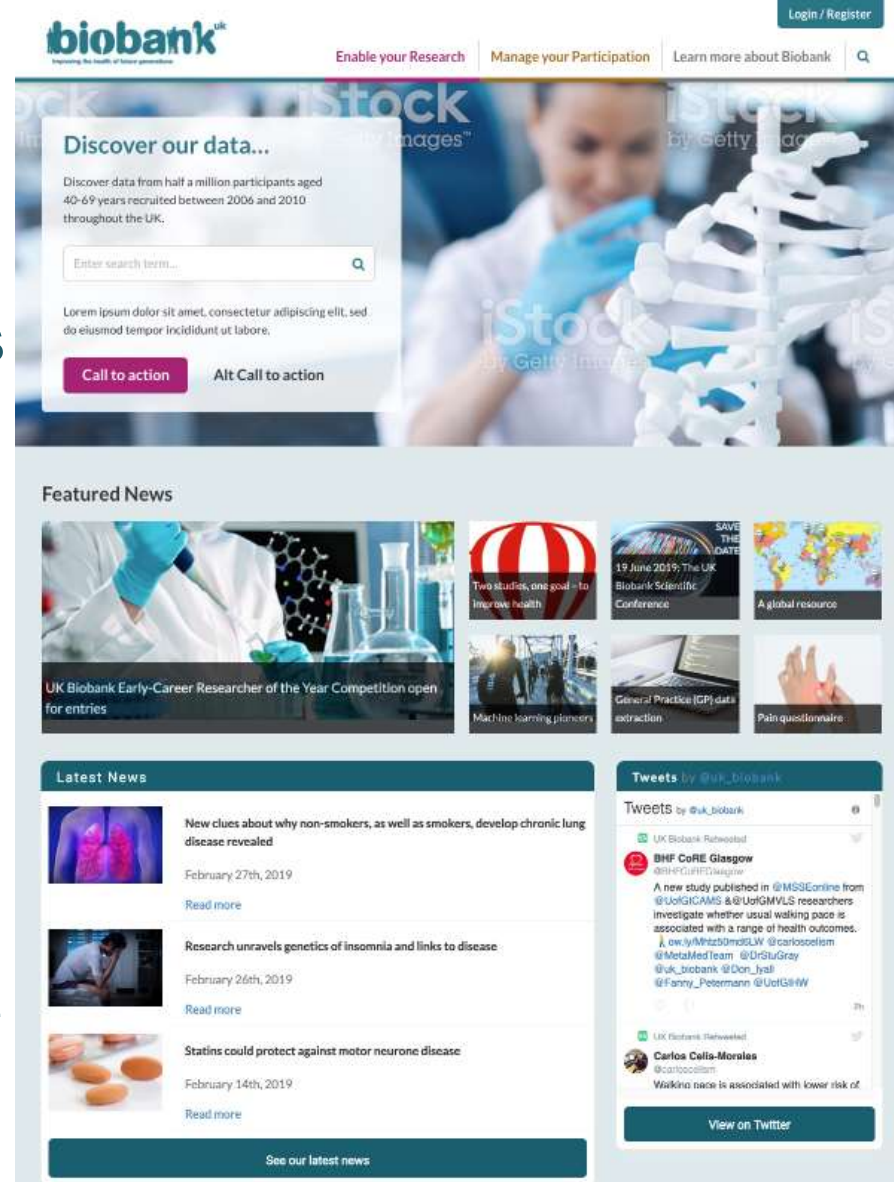
- Please report to us all papers **2 weeks** ahead of publication
- Presentation of research at conferences should be reported
- Researchers are obliged to return their results so we can make them available to others and grow the resource

UK Biobank Website: Expect BIG changes...

Redesign and rebuild

Our aim to better lead researchers through the process:

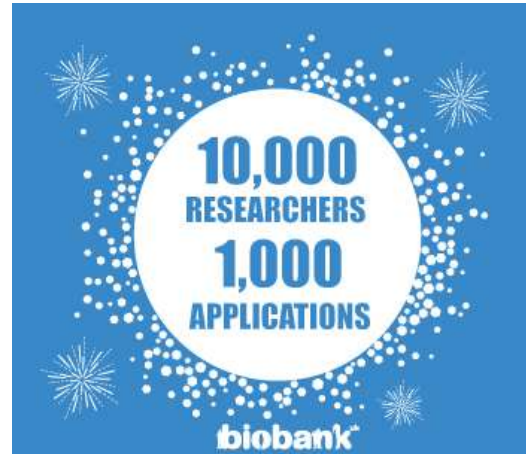
- Simplified navigation
- More effective searching
- Presentation of key information
- More narrative architecture
- Provide alternative ways to discover & explore the resource



Meet your Access Management Team today!



Thanks!



Funding bodies:

