

Guidelines and Policies for SenNet Associate Membership

Version 2, Ratified January 12, 2023

The NIH SenNet Program (<https://commonfund.nih.gov/senescence>), funded by the NIH Common Fund, is established to comprehensively identify and characterize the differences in senescent cells across the body, across various states of human health, and across the lifespan. SenNet aims to provide publicly accessible atlases and imaging of senescent cells, at tissue and single cell levels, to characterize the heterogeneity and diversity of senescent cells and the molecules they secrete, using data collected from multiple human and model organism tissues. To identify and characterize these rare cells, SenNet will develop innovative tools and technologies that build upon previous advances in single cell analysis, such as those from the Common Fund's Human Biomolecular Atlas Program and Single Cell Analysis Program. Lastly, SenNet aims to invite and unite cellular senescence researchers by developing common terms and classifications for senescent cells.

The SenNet Program offers researchers not currently funded by SenNet 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, sharing or analyzing data; jointly developing software or algorithms; developing mutually beneficial resources, protocols or reagents; or coordinating development of standards, formats or metadata.

Associate Members are also encouraged to actively engage in SenNet Consortium activities as non-voting members (i.e. participate in working groups as appropriate, attend the Annual Meeting, etc.) and to abide by all policies approved by the Consortium (<https://sennetconsortium.org/policies/>), including Data Use Agreements (DUAs), Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs), Data Sharing Policy, Publication Policy and any other pertinent NIH policies. Failure to abide by these rules and policies may result in suspension of membership. Prior to attending closed grantee meetings, Associate Members will be required to sign a conflict of interest certification. Any publication of data originating with SenNet by Associate Members should involve collaboration with SenNet membership, acknowledge SenNet as data source, not analyze non-public data without the written consent of the data generators and acknowledge the NIH Common Fund as funding source.

Investigators that wish to apply for Associate Member status should submit a letter of intent to SenNet Help Desk (help@sennetconsortium.org) that identifies who is involved in the collaboration, how long the collaboration is expected to be active, describes their planned contribution (e.g. datasets, analyses, reagents), and summarizes how the work will contribute to the mission of SenNet. 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 SenNet Steering Committee (SC) for discussion and approval by the SC members and NIH staff. Applicants will be notified of the decision following this meeting; associate members and their institutions invited to join the Consortium will be asked to sign on to all relevant policies, including the Data Use Agreement, prior to any collaborations beginning. The EC will review and recommend renewal of Associate Member status periodically to ensure they are active and in good standing.

Associate membership does not directly or indirectly imply a commitment to funding by the NIH. Those members no longer directly funded by SenNet may wish to remain involved as Associate Members in order to contribute to and complete ongoing work with SenNet. Associate Membership provides continued access to SenNet communication and data resources, necessitating tracking and formalized processes for continued Associate Membership. After discussion and approval provided by the SenNet Steering Committee, the intent is that

Associate members will receive yearly emails in which they will attest to their intention / desire to remain Associate Members and provide a brief summary of their progress and plans. Those transitioning off SenNet funding will, at the time of transition, have the option (Opt in) to continue as Associate Members, as long as SenNet Associate Member Policies are adhered to and the member demonstrates active engagement and continues to contribute as non-voting members.