

Why join the Ontario Joint Genomics Program?

The Ontario Joint Genomics Program (OJGP) is a community of genome centres working together to improve the lives of patients by helping doctors and scientists better understand and treat disease. We are bringing together expertise and capacity to promote the widespread use and sharing of genomic information through the development and implementation of common processes, services and frameworks enabling:

- Knowledge sharing
- Certification
- Reproducibility
- Efficiency

The result is a province-wide, high-quality, genomics research and services platform that drives equitable genomic medicine and health system implementation, particularly for geographically distributed clinicians, researchers, and patients needing access to local, high-quality, genomics testing.

Advantages for participants

OJGP is designed to help address the financial, operational, technical, and scientific challenges associated with genome centre operations. OJGP will help participating centres to develop the capability to deliver standardized, accredited, high-throughput assays at scale, end-to-end, from sample processing through clinical reporting. Participation in OJGP will give your centre access to:

Strong governance and a framework for ongoing collaboration

- OJGP provides a common framework for working together, alleviating the need for additional legal agreements when assessing and pursuing opportunities for the development and delivery of genomics technologies and services.
- Access to professional managers to oversee operations, business strategy, coordination, back-office services, business analysis, performance metrics and improvements.

Knowledge sharing

- Access to partners who have experience in running complex whole genome assays reproducibly, at high volumes, while maintaining superior quality.
- Workshops, moderated discussion forums, remote and in person training modules (to be developed).

Advantages for participants (continued)

Quality systems

- Expert advice in seeking and maintaining clinical accreditations of complex whole genome assays including assisting members to set up an ISO:9001, ISO:15189 compliant quality management system.
- Coordination of sample exchanges for quality testing and audit purposes and inter-laboratory proficiency exchange.

Technology

- Installation, configuration, training and assistance in operating a purpose-built, open-source, genomics laboratory information management system (MISO).

A common platform for service delivery

- Dedicated OJGP website for promotion of shared capabilities and services.
- Clearly defined cost models and mechanisms for cost recovery.

Association with strong brands

- Association with a quality brand through right to use, or representation in OJGP marketing and communications materials.
- Founding institutions the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, University Health Network, Queen's University.

Access to intellectual property

- Permission and/or a royalty free license to use background IP for OJGP purposes.
- SOP's, LIMS, informatics pipelines and other software.

Benefits of scale

- Higher purchasing power, shared central office costs, grant collaboration, joint development of new services and service improvements, investments in capacity become part of our collective capacity.
- Ability to attract and serve more users.

A helping hand

- Sharing and coordination of sequencing capacity among member sites for higher job throughput and mitigation of downtime due to scheduled/unscheduled maintenance.

