

Use (and re-use) of animals in neuroscience

How data sharing and re-use can make our science more ethical









Jan Bjaalie

Trygve Leergaard



Human Brain Project





### My background





#### – Hershey, PA

 Currently postdoc at Penn State University with Professor Yongsoo Kim





### My research



- Rats and mice
- Neuroanatomy and brain development through neuroinformatics







### Domus Medica, Oslo, 2019



- I was a PhD student trying to build a database based on literature
- A rude awakening to some of our scientific practices...
  - Lack of information
  - Partial data reporting
  - Raw data almost always unavailable

### FENS, Paris, 2022



- Seminar about intentions of EU to phase out animal research by 2030
- Researchers concerned about
  - The future of basic medical science
  - How to persuade the public on neccessity of continued use of animals

## 8 385 397



## 8 385 397

#### Animals by species

source : alures published data







https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/envdataportal/content/alures/section1\_number-of-animals.html



# 8 385 397

Animals by species

source : alures published data

Other: 3.9 %
Other fish: 8.2 %



### Less than 50% of conducted research is published



https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/envdataportal/content/alures/section1\_number-of-animals.html

### Less than 50% of conducted research is published\*



- Negative findings
- Data that don't fit the main story of the paper
- Data that's not considered substantial enough for publication
- Data that no-one found time to publish

\* Chan et al., 2014; Song et al., 2010; Van Der Naald et al., 2020

### For most publications, the underlying data is not available



- Selected data presented in text and figures
- Underlying data in a drawer or on a hard drive somewhere
- Interpretation, replication and re-use of information can be challenging

### **Can we do better?**

### My answer is a clear yes.

### «Lack of access to data generated by other researchers or institutions is a major impediment to progress in science»

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67% of scientists agree

Tenopir et al., PLOS ONE, 2011

### «Lack of access to data generated by other researchers or institutions has restricted my ability to answer scientific questions»

### «Lack of access to data generated by other researchers or institutions has restricted my ability to answer scientific questions»

50% of scientists agree

Tenopir et al., PLOS ONE, 2011

### Data sharing and the 3R's



- Studies or part of studies replaced by *in silico* studies
- Phasing out animal use sooner

• Maximizing scientific value gained from the animals used

#### nature

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As funders roll out new requireme

THE CONVERSATION Academic rigour, journalistic flair

#### NIH issues a se data publicly

NATIONAL

The data-sharing policy could set a All N say, but they have questions about

Max Kozlov

New data-sharing requirements from the National Institutes of Health are a big step toward more open science – and potentially higher-quality research

Published: March 24, 2022 1.16pm CET





The Council of the European Union has a data for individuals, businesses, and gove

Following the Data Governance Act adopt of legislation that is the result of the Europ

The new regulation puts obligations on ma access and reuse the data generated by, the Council. It also allows users to share d future, to share certain vehicle data with a

The purpose of the act is to:

- "Ensure fairness in the allocation of y
- "Stimulate a competitive data market;"
- · "Open opportunities for data-driven i
- · "Make data more accessible to all;



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EU mandates fair data

Physiologist Alejandro Caicedo of the Univers.

proposal to the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is feeling unusually stressed by new requirement that takes effect today. Along with his research idea, to study why islet of pancreas stop making insulin in people with diabetes, he will be required to submit a plar the data the project produces and sharing them in public repositories.

For his lab, that's a daunting task. Unlike neuroscience or genomics, Caicedo's field has n platforms or standards for storing and sharing the kinds of data his lab generates, such as pancreatic islet cells responding to a glucose stimulus. The "humongous" raw imaging filstored in an on-campus database, notes Julia Panzer, a postdoctoral researcher in the lab.

« Back

### Data availability from biomedical publications



- Repository
- Available upon request\*
- In publication and SI
- Not applicable
- Available from third party under restrictions
- Not available
- Other

Data from Gabelica et al., 2022, Journal of Clinical Epidemiology (Table 2, charted for this illustration) \* Categories 2 and 4 from the original table combined

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And then, I wrote : "Data available upon reasonable request" «Among authors whose DAS indicated data are available on request, we received responses from 14% of the contacted authors, and data were shared by 6.8% of the contacted authors. The percentage of useable data sets was 6.7%» «Among authors whose DAS indicated data are available on request, we received responses from 14% of the contacted authors, and data were shared by 6.8% of the contacted authors. The percentage of useable data sets was 6.7%»

#### nature



# «I would use other researchers' datasets if their datasets were easily accessible»

# «I would use other researchers' datasets if their datasets were easily accessible»

83% of scientists agree

Tenopir et al., PLOS ONE, 2011

### How do we get there?





Tadd keywords filters

 $\sim$ 

#### **Q** Search (e.g. mouse hippocampus or calbindin) 8 SEARCH CATEGORIES Viewing 1-20 of 1032 results. Project 125 Top trending Dataset 1032 The Swedish National Facility for Magnetoencephalography Parkinson's Disease Dataset Model 253 Released: 2023-11-17 (Meta)Data Model 4 Accessibility: controlled access 224 Software Custodians: Lundqvist, D. 18 Web service Parkinson's disease (PD) is characterised by a loss of dopamine and dopaminergic cells. The consequences hereof are widespread network disturbances in brain function. It is still an ongoing topic of Contributor 2152 investigation how ... brain electrocardiography electromyography electroculography magnetic resonance imaging magnetoencephalography motor behavior nts Parkinson's disease FILTERS Reset ACCESSIBILITY Top trending Julich-Brain Atlas, cytoarchitectonic maps free access 898 under embargo 93 Released: 2023-07-13 controlled access 38 Accessibility: free access restricted access 3 Custodians: Amunts, K. This dataset contains the Julich-Brain Atlas, Cytoarchitectonic maps in different coordinate spaces. The parcellation provided by the Atlas is derived from the individually released probability maps (PMs) of SPECIES cytoarchi... add species filters $\sim$ anatomical parcellation technique brain brain mapping cytoarchitectonic mapping magnetic resonance imaging (maximum probability projection) silver staining EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH Tadd experimental approach filters $\sim$ Top trending The Digital Brain Tumour Atlas - an open histopathology resource (v1.0) STUDIED BRAIN REGION Released: 2022-01-20 T add studied brain region filters $\sim$ Accessibility: controlled access Custodians: Roetzer-Pejrimovsky, T. TECHNIQUES Currently, approximately 150 different brain tumour types are defined by the WHO. Recent endeavors to exploit machine learning and deep learning methods for supporting more precise diagnostics based add techniques filters $\sim$ on the histologica... brain cancer clinical annotated tissue (H&E staining high-resolution scanning histopathology qualitative analysis quantitative analysis tumour **KEYWORDS**



Q Search (e.g. mouse hi	ippocamp	ous or calbindin) SEARCH
CATEGORIES		Viewing 1-20 of 79 results.
Dataset	79	
		Investigating cellular diversity in a novel Alzneimer's disease mouse model using the optimized QUINT worknow (VT)
FILTERS	Reset	
		Custodiane : Kossersuski C
ACCESSIBILITY		This study includes 40 miss (20 at 6 months(m), 20 at 14 months(m), 2 males and 29 females). Of the miss, 20 are from 14 AD-RVD strains, 2 are the CE7P1/6 L founder strain, 6 are the E1 $Re/DRA(21/D2)$
free access	71	5XFAD founder str
under embargo	8	Alzheimer's disease amyloid pathology anatomical segmentation technique cell composition genetic diversity mouse model Nissi staining primary antibody staining quantitative analysis secondary antibody staining
SPECIES		
add species filters	~	
	70	X-ray virtual histology for the investigation of temporal lobe epilepsy in a mouse model (v1)
		Released: 2023-02-01
EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH		Accessibility: free access
<b>V</b> add experimental approach filters	~	Custodians: Tanner, C.
histology	79	This study evaluates virtual histology with synchrotron radiation-based X-ray microtomography to track the histopathological progression of mesial temporal lobe epilepsy (mTLE) in a mouse model. The kainate (KA) model
STUDIED BRAIN REGION		anatomical segmentation technique (brain convolution) deep learning (epilepsy model) (epileptogenesis) (injection) (kainate) (synchrotron radiation) (transcardial perfusion fixation technique) (virtual histology)
$\pmb{\nabla}$ add studied brain region filters	$\sim$	X-ray microtomography
TECHNIQUES		
▼ add techniques filters	~	
		Distribution of dopamine 1 receptor positive neurons in the adult male mouse brain
KEYWORDS		Released: 2022-12-22
<b>T</b> add keywords filters	~	Accessibility: free access
		Custodians: Kim, J. H.
CONTENT TYPES		High-resolution bright-field microscopy images of coronal brain sections showing dopamine 1 receptor positive neurons across the adult (70 days old) male mouse brain. The dataset consists of image
add content types filters	~	Series covering me
		anatomical delineation technique basic cell groups and regions brain mapping Chemoarchitecture cryosectioning D1 receptor DAB staining image registration immunohistochemistry Transgenic animal

### Domus Medica, Oslo, 2019

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#### 2 | METHODS

I Comp Neurol 2018:1-17

#### 2.1 | Animals

A total of 81 male and 76 female mice were used in this study (see Table 1 for *n* per group). The mice came from separate breeding colonies of Drd1a-EGFP and Drd2-EGFP mice bred on a Swiss background, established at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne, Australia. Mice were originally generated by the Gene Expression Nervous System Atlas (GENSAT) program at the Rockefeller University, New York, USA (Gong et al., 2003). Mice were perfused on postnatal day (P) 17  $\pm$  1 (juvenile), P25  $\pm$  1 (preadolescent), P35  $\pm$  1 (early adolescent), P49  $\pm$  1 (late adolescent), or P70 (adult), and only mice hemizygous for the EGFP reporter gene were used in the study. P17 mice were weaned 30 min before being perfused. All other groups were weaned at P18-P21, and then were housed in same-sex groups of 3–5 littermates in open-top cages (34 cm x 16 cm x 16 cm) and maintained on a 12 hr light/dark cycle

### Collaboration with Prof. Jee Hyun Kim (Deakin University)



### Domus Medica, Oslo, 2019





### Immortalizing the data online



### Sharing data is about...

### Sharing data is about...

... increasing the data life-span

... allowing others to build on your data

... reducing waste

... maximizing value for the lives sacrificed

### If we can do better,

### and we know how to get there...

### Then why are we still here?



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### Why do researchers choose not to share?

		Responses	Percent	_
	Insufficient Time	603	53.6%	How do we overcome t
	Lack of Funding	445	39.6%	challenges?
ſ	Do not Have Rights to Make Data Public	271	24.1%	
	No Place to Put Data	264	23.5%	Solutions are emerging
	Lack of Standards	222	19.8%	
Γ	Sponsor does not Require	196	17.4%	
	Do not Need Data	169	15.0%	2025
	Other Reasons For Data Not Available	164	14.6%	
	Should not be Available	162	14.4%	

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0021101.t012

### Lack of time = lack of incentive?

### Lack of time = lack of incentive?



### How can we incentivize better practices?



- Enforce data sharing mandates
- Consider data sharing a requirement under the 3 Rs
- Grants for projects to
  - Publish existing data
  - Re-use public data
- Consider datasets to be first-class research objects

### What does the future academic CV look like?

#### DOI:10.1038/s41467-023-41645-4

- A Lorents, M-E Colin, IE Bjerke, S Nougaret, L Montelisciani, M Diaz, P Verschure, J Vezoli (2023) Human Brain Project Partnering Projects Meeting: Status Quo and Outlook. eNeuro. 10(9). DOI:10.1523/ENEURO.0091-23.2023
- IE Bjerke, ER Cullity, K Kjelsberg, KC Charan, TB Leergaard, & JH Kim (2022) DOPAMAP, high-resolution images of dopamine 1 and 2 receptor expression in developing and adult mouse brains. Scientific Data. 9(175). DOI:10.1038/s41597-022-01268-8
- IE Bjerke, SC Yates, A Laja, MP Witter, MA Puchades, JG Bjaalie & TB Leergaard (2021) Densities and numbers of calbindin and parvalbumin positive neurons across the rat and mouse brain. iScience. 24(1), 101906. DOI:10.1016/j.isci.2020.101906
- IE Bjerke, M Puchades, JG Bjaalie & TB Leergaard (2020) Database of literature derived cellular measurements from the murine basal ganglia. Scientific Data. 7(211). DOI:10.1038/s41597-020-0550-3
- IE Bjerke, M Øvsthus, KA Andersson, CH Blixhavn, SC Yates, H Kleven, MA Puchades, JG Bjaalie & TB Leergaard (2018) Navigating the Murine Brain: Toward Best Practices for Determining and Documenting Neuroanatomical Locations in Experimental Studies, Frontiers in Neuroanatomy. 12(82), 1-15. DOI:10.3389/fman.2018.00082
- N Berggaard, IE Bjerke, AEB Paulsen, L Hoang, NET Skogaker, MP Writter & JJL van der Want (2018) Development of Parvalbumin-Expressing Basket Terminals in Layer II of the Rat Medial Entorhinal Cortex. eNeuro. 5(3). DOI:10.1523/ENEURO.0438-17.2018
- IE Bjerke, M Øvsthus, EA Papp, SC Yates, L Silvestri, J Fiorilli, CMA Pennartz, FS Pavone, MA Puchades, JG Bjaalie & TB Leergaard. (2018) Data integration through brain atlasing: Human Brain Project tools and strategies. European Psychiatry. 50, 70-76. DOI:10.1016/j.europsy.2018.02.004

#### Datasets

In addition to my research papers listed above, I have also published more than 60 datasets through the EBRAINS Knowledge Graph. This ensures that all data from my research are available according to the FAIR principles. The most notable dataset collections from my research are the following:

- Map of dopamine receptor positive cell types in the developing and adult mouse brain (DOPAMAP; 21 datasets). This
  project provides access to a large body of high-resolution image data showing the distribution of dopamine 1- and
  2-receptor positive neurons in the mouse brain, with age groups ranging from postnatal day 17 to 70. The age groups
  included correspond to key developmental milestones, defined as follows: juvenile (17 days), preadolescent (25 days),
  addescent (35 days), late adolescent (49 days) and adult (70 days). The data have been analysed to provide quantitative
  data across age, sex and receptor type.
- Adas of parvabumin- and calibndin-positive neurons in the modent brain (CalciMAP; 8 datasets) This project provides
  access to series of high-resolution images showing the brain-wide distribution of parvalbumin and calibindin in the rat and
  mouse brain. The project uses immunohistochemistry, with all images spatially registered to open-access brain atlases.
  Most recently, this collection has been expanded to include data from developing mouse brains. For the adult data, the
  project includes data resulting from a semi-automatic analysis of labelled cells.
- Developmental Mouse Brain Atlas (DeMBA; 11 datasets). This project provides access to a continuous 3D reference atlas for the postnatal mouse brain. The atlases are based on spatial transformation of the Allen Mouse Brain Common Coordinate Framework version 3 template (postnatal day 56) to a set of serial two-photon tomography (STPT) templates of developing mouse brains (postnatal day 4, 7, 14, 21 and 28; Newmaster et al. (Nat Comm, 2020), Liwarg et al. (biorxiv, 2023)). These are the key ages of the DeMBA atlas. The spatial transformation matrixes were used to create synthetic, interpolated templates for intermediate ages. They provide models of what an STPT-imaged brain would look like at the intermediate ages. The segmentations volumes from the adult Allen Mouse brain Commo Coordinate Framework version 3 (2017 and 2022 editions) are transformed and interpolated using the same matrices.

#### Other scientific communication

- Forskningskampen er mer enn en elitekamp. 2022. Commentary in Norwegian about cuts in research funding, Aftenposten (Norway's largest printed newspaper).
- The critical window for becoming a FAIR researcher 2021. Commentary, INCF Community Blog.
- Improve reporting practices for quantitative neuroscience data. 2020. Behind the paper. Research Data at Springer Nature.
- Hvordan få mer ut av hjerneforskningen? 2020. Bloggpost ved Medisinbloggen, Universitetet i Oslo. Blog post in Norwegian.

#### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- UNIFOR Frimed travel grant 2023. Grant awarded to me for a research visit to collaborator (Professor Jee Hyun Kim).
- King's gold medal 2022. Prize awarded to outstanding young researchers for scientific work assessed at the University of
  Outs
- DLN FAIR data award 2021. NOK 30000. Prize awarded for my openly shared datasets.

- UNIFOR Medical Research Grant 2022-2023. Euros 10000. Grant awarded to TB Leergaard. My role was in planning the
  project and contributing to write the application.
- UNIFOR Medical Research Grant 2021-2022. Euros 17491. Grant awarded to TB Leergaard. My role was in planning the
  project and contributing to write the application.
- European Union Human Brain Project Research Infrastructure Voucher. 2020-2021. Euros 89500 + 3580 travel budget. Grant awarded to JH Kim & TB Leergaard. My role was in planning the project and contributing to write the application.

#### INVITED TALKS

- Experiences with data sharing from the field of neuroscience. Online. October 16, 2023. ReproducibiliTea journal dub series
  arranged by the Norwegian Reproducibility Network.
- Mapping the developing dopaminergic system. Egersund, Norway. September 27, 2023. Symposium talk at the Norwegian Research School of Neuroscience national conference.
- En Risørværings guide til nevrovitenskapen. Risør, Norway. September 25, 2023. Popular science talk (in Norwegian) at the Risør Rotary Club.
- Using EBRAINS tools and atlasss: Quantitative analysis of calbindin and parvalbumin positive neurons across the rat and mouse brain. Online. November 23, 2022. Webinar series arranged by the Human Brain Project Outreach team. Recording available online.
- Mapping cellular parameters in the mouse brain. Paris, France. July 8, 2022. Talk at EBRAINS FENS Satellite event.

#### SUPERVISION

- Medical research student supervision 2022-current. Elisabeth Mathisen, Cand. med. University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.
- PhD student co-supervision 2021-current. Heidi Kleven, PhD student in neuroscience. University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.
- Master student supervision 2021-current. Olga Rogulina, MSc Neuroscience. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.
- Master student supervision 2021-2022. Monika Overdevest, MSc Neuroscience. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.
- Honors student co-supervision 2020-2021. Kristel Charan, Psychology Honors. Institute for Social Neuroscience (ISN) Psychology, Melbourne, Australia.
- Master student co-supervision 2019-2020. Maren Pamas Gulnes, Master of Informatics. University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.
- Master student co-supervision 2018-2019. Arthur Laja, MSc Neuroscience. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.

#### TEACHING

- Mouse and rat brain atlases: Registering and analysing rodent brain data 2022. Lecture for EBRAINS Training on Brain
   Atlases and Simulation Services in Vienna, Austria.
- Assigning location parameters to experimental data: Common practice and best practice. 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023. Lecture for the course "Neuroscience data integration through use of digital brain atlases" (IMB9345) at the University of Oslo, Norway.
- · Problem-based learning Facilitator for first-year medical students working with cases in small groups.
- Facilitator at conference workshops related to spatial atlas registration, data integration and data curation 2016, 2017, 2018. Human Brain Project Summit, Firenze, Glasgow, Maastricht.

### A critical window for becoming FAIR



- Teach young researchers to:
  - Plan for data sharing
  - Collect metadata systematically
  - Use public data
  - Share their research through repositories

### Summary

- There is a large discrepancy between the number of animals used and what gets published
- Improved data sharing practices could help us get more value for the lives sacrificed
- We need incentives for researchers to adopt improved practices

### Thank you for your attention!



Data sharing and re-use as a moral imperative in animal research



The critical window for becoming a FAIR researcher