Dear New PGP participant [or Real Name],

Welcome to the Harvard PGP!

We are delighted to have you join as a participant and deeply appreciate your support of the Harvard Personal Genome Project (PGP) and its mission. We also want to remind you of ways that you can participate now and give you an overview of how our sequencing process works.

Almost everyone who joins the Harvard PGP wants to know how and when they will get their genome sequenced. What we have found since starting this project in 2005 is that sequencing occurs in bursts. Although costs have dropped significantly since the project began, sequencing is still a costly and time consuming process at the scale of our project and is completely dependent on funding resources that come to us in unpredictable waves. The Harvard PGP staff continuously seeks new and innovative partnerships and funding resources in order to sequence its participants’ genomes.

The good news is that we are also able to accept sequencing data that you already have and that you wish to donate and make public through your PGP account. This data can be acquired through direct-to-consumer providers or through the PGP third-party activities that might provide special sequencing offers for Harvard PGP participants. Your participation in our community is important so, if you can, please consider contributing these other sources of data that will enrich the PGP ecosystem and encourage scientific research.

Participants often ask how to find out what is happening at the Harvard PGP. PersonalGenomes.org has a blog that updates participants on news and events (<https://blog.personalgenomes.org/>), and there are online forums where participants can connect with each other. We also have a great FAQ page (<https://my.pgp-hms.org/faq>) where you can find lots of answers to your questions. There you can also find a description of ways you can participate before you have a sequenced genome as well as lots of other useful information about the project.

Because the project is run almost entirely by volunteers and donations of time from supporting organizations, we have limited resources to handle individual inquiries. Please consider using the above resources to find answers to the most common questions. Although we may not communicate as often as large commercial organizations you may be familiar with, rest assured that we are hard at work furthering the mission of the PGP.

Finally, we invite you to also participate in collaborative scientific research through our sister project, Open Humans (<https://www.openhumans.org/>). Open Humans offers a number of ways to increase the value of your PGP data by synergizing with other studies interested in working with you and your data. It is a growing community that is yet another way to share your genome and trait data for both academic and non-academic research.

Thank you again for joining the Harvard PGP community!

Sincerely,

The Harvard PGP staff