



# **Genomic Medicine Sweden**

## **Strategy for collaboration with industry, 2023-2024**

Adopted by the steering group of Genomic Medicine Sweden, April 18, 2023

## About the strategy

The strategy constitutes a framework for collaboration between GMS and the industry community and will contribute to goal fulfilment and an advancement of GMS operations in the direction of GMS's overall goals. The strategy aims to provide a common basis and facilitate continuous decision-making towards set goals. The strategy is primarily aimed at people enrolled in GMS steering group, management group, strategic collaboration group, operations office, regional Genomic Medicine Centres (GMCs) and working committees. Companies in Sweden and abroad that operate in precision medicine, trade organisations in life science and technology/IT are also important target groups. Secondary target groups are the infrastructures Science for Life Laboratory, Biobank Sweden, regional precision medicine centres, ATMP Sweden and patient organisations.

## Vision

Academia, health care and industry co-develop and make precision medicine available to the entire Swedish population.

## Mission

Industry collaboration is an integral part of the development and utilisation of precision medicine.

## Aim

The aim of the strategy is to create clear conditions for collaboration between GMS and industry actors. This may involve the mutual exchange of resources, ideas, knowledge, tools, and networks towards the overall objectives of GMS. The strategy will also contribute to GMS being perceived as a clear and easy partner to engage in dialogue with on issues relating to industry collaboration.

## GMS goals and status

GMS is a collaboration between Sweden's seven regions with university healthcare and the seven universities with medical faculties in Gothenburg, Linköping, Lund, Stockholm, Umeå, Uppsala and Örebro. GMS consists of seven regional GMCs and a number of working committees for diagnostic and treatment areas as well as working committees for other areas. GMS strategic plan presents<sup>1</sup> the overall goals of GMS:

1. Implementation of broad gene sequencing in healthcare for better diagnostics and health equality for all patients.
2. Established national genomics platform and knowledge database.
3. Increased utilisation of genomics- and health data for research, development, and innovation
4. Increasing participation in clinical trials
5. Conditions for primary prevention and early detection of common diseases.

GMS has a working committee for innovation and industry collaboration that is a centralised entry point for inquiries from the industry and the committee also works actively to identify collaboration needs within GMS. The working committee is dedicated to creating conditions for and developing collaboration and supporting GMS partnerships with companies. There is currently an extensive network of industry contacts that GMS will work actively to develop and maintain and use to pursue joint questions or projects that are mutually beneficial and that strengthen the patient's

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<sup>1</sup> Genomic Medicine Sweden (GMS) – Strategic plan 2021-2030, 2021.

opportunities for precision medicine. All GMS partners and the four trade organisations in life science have entered into an agreement aimed at facilitating collaboration between GMS and companies and clarifying the conditions for this collaboration.<sup>2</sup> Collaboration with industry is a prerequisite for broad implementation of precision medicine, which is also supported financially by Vinnova, Sweden's Innovation Agency. Collaboration between GMS and companies currently consists of individual, relatively limited projects in areas such as research, further development/testing of methods or software, and training.

## Objective

The aim is for GMS to increase its collaboration with industry from the current level of a few limited cooperation projects to become an integrated part of GMS's operations. Each working committee should have identified and described their needs for industry collaboration and implement activities to fulfil these needs. The collaborations must be value-creating and provide benefits and/or resources and expertise to one or more working committees. GMS endeavours to promote the establishment of long-term industry relationships that lead to more extensive and in-depth collaborations that eventually contribute to the development of one or more of GMS's five overall objectives.

## Prioritising strategic collaboration

Collaboration should be based on an expressed need or interest from one or more actors within GMS. The collaboration should be in line with current guidelines from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKR)<sup>3</sup> and GMS agreement with the industry organisations.<sup>2</sup>

Priority is given to:

- collaborations that are expected to result in scalable solutions or knowledge that is of value to several of GMS parties
- collaborations involving several companies
- companies that have or want to develop operations in Sweden

Collaboration will only be established with companies that share the overall objectives of GMS. There must be a mutual benefit and value from carrying out the collaboration. GMS does not intend to enter exclusive collaborations with companies.

## Work process

A work process for how GMS works with industry collaboration is described in the document "Guidance for collaboration between Genomic Medicine Sweden and industry actors". Where appropriate, collaborations should be regulated via a collaboration agreement. Basic principles for this are described in the document "Principles for agreements regarding collaboration between Genomic Medicine Sweden and industry actors". GMS shall be transparent with all collaborations. Collaborative activities and agreements shall be communicated in accordance with GMS communication plan<sup>4</sup> in consultation with the parties involved. All communication must clearly state that the collaboration relates to GMS. The parties in the collaboration agreement shall jointly decide on the communication activities to be carried out. During and after each completed collaboration

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<sup>2</sup> Agreement on collaboration between Genomic Medicine Sweden and life science industry representatives, GMS, 2022

<sup>3</sup> Agreement on collaboration rules

<sup>4</sup> Genomic Medicine Sweden – Communication Strategy 2022-2024

project, the working committee for innovation and industry collaboration shall carry out a follow-up in the form of a discussion with the parties involved. A qualitative follow-up is expected to contribute to lessons learned and further development of industry collaborations.

## **Expected effects**

- that a structured collaboration process is implemented, communicated, and evaluated in prioritised areas of GMS operations
- clearer incentives and increased interest in industry collaboration within GMS
- increased number of joint applications to research funders/increased research funding
- increased number of joint pilot-, development-, and research projects
- Increased joint learning and active knowledge exchange between GMS and industry actors.
- a common agenda

## **Opinion and common issues**

Creating long-term conditions for collaboration between healthcare, academia, patients, and industry can mean acting together on common issues to broaden perspectives and become a stronger voice. GMS will promote broad inclusion of different stakeholder groups in forums and debates.

## **Future scenario and resources**

GMS sees a continued great value in integrating industry collaboration in future precision health initiatives. Long-term dedicated resources are needed to coordinate further co-development between academia, healthcare, patients, and industry to make precision medicine available to the entire Swedish population.