



PhenX Newsletter

Issue 40. October 2026

PhenX Highlights

American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting

The PhenX Toolkit team will attend the American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting at the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

PhenX will be at Booth 219 during exhibit hall hours, October 21–23, to answer

questions and demonstrate the PhenX Toolkit. Look for the fennec fox and stop by to see us. Cataia Ives will present a poster (4053T) on Thursday, October 22, from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m.: *“The PhenX Toolkit: Updated Substance Use, Use Disorders, and Recovery Collections and an Expanded Cardiovascular Domain”*



ASHG
ANNUAL MEETING
MONTREAL
OCTOBER 20-24, 2026



PhenX Supports Gold Standard Science



PhenX protocols support NIH plan for gold standard science

PhenX was highlighted in the August 22, 2025 [“Leading in Gold Standard Science: An NIH Implementation Plan.”](#) The plan describes NIH policies, programs, and initiatives that advance nine principles of gold standard science, including reproducibility, transparency, and collaboration. PhenX appears as an example of an NIH-supported resource that promotes reproducible research by providing investigators with expert-recommended, standard measurement protocols.

Explore New PhenX Toolkit Features

The PhenX Toolkit has added several new features to make protocols easier to find, cite, organize, and use. These enhancements include Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), improved citation features, a redesigned Advanced Search experience, expanded About pages, and a new tool for sharing feedback.

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for PhenX Protocols. Each PhenX protocol is now associated with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Each DOI provides a persistent link to the protocol landing page, supports more consistent citations, improves search-engine discoverability, and facilitates tracking PhenX protocol citations in the literature.

Updates to Cite My Toolkit—DOIs. The Cite My Toolkit feature creates citations for all protocols saved in a user's Toolkit. Users can now download the citations, including DOIs, in a format that can be automatically imported into reference manager software, like EndNote or Zotero.

Updates to Advanced Search. The redesigned Advanced Search page places filters on the left side, adds a more prominent search button, and displays example searches directly below the search bar. Smart Search and Full Text Search options and their descriptions are now easier to find, helping users choose between broader concept-based results and exact text matches.

Updates to About Pages. New and revised About pages provide an overview of the PhenX Toolkit, explain how protocols are selected, and how the Toolkit supports data interoperability and reproducible research. The pages also include new visuals that illustrate the Toolkit's utility, its role in the broader data ecosystem, and the cloud-based architecture and automated processes that support the website.

New Feedback Tool. A new Feedback button gives visitors a quick way to share their experience using the Toolkit. The feedback you provide helps us make the Toolkit better.

Bioinformatics Updates. PhenX bioinformatics activities are focused on expanding the Toolkit's usability, improving protocol interoperability, and strengthening connections with other biomedical data resources. Current efforts include collaborating with the AnVIL Clinical Resource to identify PhenX protocols in AnVIL datasets; working with NIH partners to submit the PhenX Demographics and Social Determinants of Health: Core protocols for NIH Common Data Element endorsement; and establishing LOINC codes for PhenX protocols. The team is also benchmarking PhenXtract, a multi-agent artificial intelligence proof-of-concept tool to help curate publications that reporting use of PhenX protocols.

Recent PhenX Project Publications

Kenney, M. O., Guarino, S. H., Brandow, A. M., Carroll, C. P., Bakshi, N., Campbell, C. M., Darbari, D. S., Smith, W. R., Stinson, J. N., Zempsky, W. T., Huggins, W., Maiese, D. R., Nelms, M. D., Williams, D., & Hamilton, C. M. (2026). [PhenX Toolkit measurement protocols for sickle cell disease pain](https://doi.org/10.1182/bloodadvances.2026020427). *Blood Advances*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1182/bloodadvances.2026020427>

Kelly, J. F., Zemore, S., Vilsaint, C. L., Haegerich, T., Huggins, W., Ives, C., Hill, C., Hamilton, C. M., Vidot, D., Thrul, J., McNeil, R., Hopfer, C., Bunting, A., & Buu, A. (2026). [Mapping and measuring addiction recovery: Recommended protocols through the PhenX Toolkit](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2026.113265). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 286, 113265. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2026.113265>

Krzyzanowski, M. C., Pan, H., Glaze, I., Hwang, S., Williams, D., Engle, M., Waterfield, J., Ives, C., Armson, S., Huggins, W., & Hamilton, C. M. (2026). [The PhenX Toolkit: Long COVID collection of standard protocols](https://doi.org/10.1002/cpz1.70317). *Current Protocols*, 6, e70317. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cpz1.70317>

Buu, A., Thrul, J., Bunting, A., Haegerich, T., Huggins, W., Hopfer, C., Vidot, D., Ives, C., McNeil, R., Zemore, S., Vilsaint, C. L., Fallon, E., Hill, C., Hamilton, C. M., & Kelly, J. F. (2026). [Enhancing data compatibility in an evolving landscape: Medical cannabis and polysubstance use protocols in the PhenX Toolkit](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2025.113001). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 278, 113001. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2025.113001>

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National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

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