“All of Us” to Advance Precision Medicine

September 3, 2018

Enrollment has opened for the All of Us Research Program to gather health information via surveys and health records from a diverse group of Americans to accelerate research.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) aims to advance precision medicine, for which treatment is customized for individuals based on patterns uncovered by massive data.

The NIH plans to provide data from the program to qualified researchers. Participants will be able to access their own information, summary data about all participants and the study findings.

All of Us aims to enroll at least 1 million people, starting with adults (children are to be added in 2019). More than 25,000 participants have already joined as part of a yearlong pilot test.

The program encourages the participation of people of every race, ethnicity, sex, gender and sexual orientation and intends to include people previously underrepresented in medical research, especially people of color. Healthy people and those with long-term health issues are welcome.

Participants will remain anonymous. Identifying information will be removed from health records and samples will be stored without names in a biobank. The NIH said it would prohibit disclosure of the data to law enforcement.

Spanish-speaking advisers are available, and more languages will be added. No health insurance is required, and data collection appointments are free, though the program does not provide medical care.

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