

What are third-party or independent data sources?

Last Modified on 04/02/2026 9:25 am EST

ASCEND has the world’s most powerful and comprehensive biomedical experiment-focused dataset. In addition to our publication corpus, our database is further enriched by a vast library of scientifically trusted third-party sources to surface critical biological/experimental insights and inform our underlying ontological libraries.

We curate and evaluate scientific databases/datasets that provide the most relevant biological data, libraries, and biomedical insights to ASCEND. We leverage these databases through dedicated partnerships and various licensing agreements. We constantly evaluate our databases and underlying libraries to ensure they provide the most value to scientists.

Example datasets that can be directly surfaced as evidence across the platform:

- Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Mouse Genome Informatics (MGI)
- Human Protein Atlas (HPA)
- UniProt
- Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG)
- Retraction Watch
- Clinicaltrials.gov
- dbSNP

Third-party databases that enrich our underlying ontologies, libraries, and scientific insights:

Database	License Type	Link
DrugBank	Licensed through a partnership	N/A
Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG)	Licensed through a partnership	N/A

Database	License Type	Link
Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM)	Licensed through a partnership. This database/product contains information obtained from the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man® (OMIM®) database, which has been obtained through a license from the Johns Hopkins University, which owns the copyright thereto.	N/A
Small Molecule Pathway Database	Licensed through a partnership	N/A
miRBase	License type: Public Domain	https://mirbase.org/download/CURRENT/LICENSE/
ENSEMBL	Not a recognized license type, permissive	https://useast.ensembl.org/info/about/legal/disclaimer.html
MONDO Monarch	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://mondo.monarchinitiative.org/#license
Entrez	License type: Public Domain	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/home/about/policies/
Human Phenotype Ontology	Not a recognized license type, permissive	https://hpo.jax.org/license
Gene Ontology	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://geneontology.org/page/use-and-license

Database	License Type	Link
NCBI Taxonomy	License type: Public Domain	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/home/about/policies/
Therapeutic Target Database	Not a recognized license type, permissive	https://ttd.idrblab.cn/citation
NCBI Gene	License type: Public Domain	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/home/about/policies/
OrthoDB	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://www.orthodb.org/?page=disclaimer
Uberon	License type: CC-BY 3.0	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ols4/ontologies/uberon
BioGrid	License type: MIT license, copyright 2021 Mike Tyers	https://downloads.thebiogrid.org/File/LICENSE.txt
UniProt	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://www.uniprot.org/help/license
STRING	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://string-db.org/cgi/accessfooter_active_subpage=licensing
Human Metabolome Database	Licensed through a partnership	N/A
MarkerDB	Licensed through a partnership	N/A
Reactome	License type: CC0	https://reactome.org/license
Human Protein Atlas	License type: CC-BY-SA 4.0	https://www.proteinatlas.org/about/licence

Database	License Type	Link
BioAssay Ontology	License type: CC-BY 4.0	http://bioassayontology.org/bioassayontology/
Drug Gene Interaction Database (DGIdb)	License type: MIT license	https://github.com/dgldb/dgldb/blob/master/LICENSE
ChEMBL	License type: CC-BY-SA 3.0	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl/
ChEBI	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/training/online/courses/chebi-quick-tour/what-is-chebi
dbSNP	License type: Public Domain	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/home/about/policies/
Cell Ontology	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ols4/ontologies/cl
Cellosaurus	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://www.cellosaurus.org/description.html
Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)	License type: Public Domain	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/home/about/policies/
OpenFDA	License type: CC0	https://open.fda.gov/license/
Drugs@FDA	License type: CC0	https://open.fda.gov/license/
ClinicalTrials.gov	License type: Public Domain	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/home/about/policies/
cBioportal	License type: GNU Affero General Public License v3.0	https://github.com/cBioPortal/cbioportal/blob/master/LICENSE
Genomic Data Commons	License type: Public Domain	https://www.cancer.gov/policies/copyright-reuse

Database	License Type	Link
gnomAD	License type: CC0	https://gnomad.broadinstitute.org/policies
AlphaFold	License type: CC-BY 4.0	https://alphafold.ebi.ac.uk/
The Cancer Genome Atlas	License type: Public Domain	https://www.cancer.gov/ccg/research/genome-sequencing/tcga
Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx)	License type: Public Domain	https://gtexportal.org/home/license