

# Privacy Notice

## Introduction

Data protection is a key concern for the Swiss Academies of Medical Sciences (SAMS) and SIB Swiss Institute for Bioinformatics. This explanatory notice on data protection (hereinafter "**Privacy Notice**") explains the measures taken by SAMS and SIB in terms of Personal Data processing with respect to the use of the website [www.sphn.ch](http://www.sphn.ch) (hereinafter "**SPHN website**"). This Privacy Notice is intended to help You understand how We may use the data you provide as a user (hereinafter "**User**" or "**You**") of the SPHN website or attend an event, otherwise deal with us.

We invite you to take the time to read this Privacy Notice in its entirety. We are also available via the e-mail address [info@sphn.ch](mailto:info@sphn.ch) to answer any questions that you may have, particularly in the exercise of your rights to your personal data as described below.

## SPHN website owner and Data Controllers

The Swiss Personalized Health Network (hereinafter "**SPHN**") mandated by the Swiss federal government aims to advance research and innovation in the field of personalized medicine. The Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (hereinafter "**SAMS**") is responsible for carrying out the mandate of SPHN. In this regard, SAMS collaborates closely with the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (hereinafter "**SIB**").

### On behalf of SAMS

Swiss Personalized Health Network  
Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences  
Haus der Akademien | Laupenstrasse 7  
CH-3001 Bern  
T +41 31 306 92 95 | [info@sphn.ch](mailto:info@sphn.ch)

### On behalf of SIB

Swiss Personalized Health Network  
SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics  
Elisabethenstrasse 43  
CH-4051 Basel  
[dcc@sib.swiss](mailto:dcc@sib.swiss)

While accessing and using the SPHN website, the SAMS and the SIB (hereinafter the "**SAMS/SIB**" or "**We**") are joint website owners and website controllers when processing Personal Data pursuant to and in accordance with the Federal Data Protection Act (FDPA) and, if applicable, the European Regulation EU 679/2016 (GDPR). All Personal Data provided or collected during use of the SPHN website is handled in line with the principles of these regulations.

## Personal data

Personal Data means any information concerning an identified or identifiable natural person. This concerns in particular information such as name, address or postal address, telephone number or email address, insofar as this contains an indication making it possible to identify the person. The following types of Personal Data may be collected and stored by SAMS/SIB in the context of accessing the SPHN website:

- Contact and registration data (e.g., name, email address, affiliation, messages sent via contact forms);
- Information related to newsletter subscriptions;
- Technical data such as IP addresses or browser type (see below);
- Any direct communications sent to SAMS/SIB.

Personal Data that You communicate to SPHN website in registration forms, the newsletter and when making contact is used exclusively to process your requests (registration, information/service request, etc.).

## Data Processing Purposes

We use data only for the purposes stated below:

- Your personal data may be collected to operate the SPHN website and improve its functionality.
- Your personal data may be used to send you newsletters and mailings if you signed up for them
- Your personal data may be processed to allow you to sign up for workshops and webinars
- Your personal data may be processed when you use SPHN Services

## Personal Data processing while accessing and using the SPHN website

If You only use the SPHN website for information purposes, without actively sharing any Personal Data, We only process Personal Data necessary for the display of the SPHN website on your device connected to the internet that You are using. These include:

- the IP address,
- the date and time of the request,
- the quantity of data transmitted,
- the type and version of the internet browser,
- the operating system used.

These data are collected solely to operate and maintain the SPHN website, improve performance and prevent unauthorized access.

## Newsletter and Mailing Lists

SPHN uses Mailchimp as a mailing list manager, and registrations are processed by them. When subscribing to a mailing list, first and last name, e-mail address, IP address and date of registration of the person who made the request are recorded and stored by Mailchimp in a GDPR compliant manner. This means that Mailchimp is certified every year for its EU-U.s. and Swiss-U.S. Data Privacy Framework.

This storage serves on one hand as proof only in the event that a third party has misused your e-mail address and has signed up to receive the newsletter without your knowledge and on the other hand to keep You informed about SPHN activity, projects and events. You may unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time using the link provided in each email, or by contacting us directly.

Mailchimp is registered at:

The Rocket Science Group, LLC  
675 Ponce de Leon Ave NE Suite  
5000  
Atlanta, GA 30308 USA

You can find more information on [Mailchimp's data privacy policies here](#).

## Sign up for workshops and webinars

To organize and manage SPHN events, workshops and webinars, We may collect and process various data, such as first name, last name, contact details, event registration and any other information you provide.

## Use of SPHN Services

When you use SPHN services or contact us for any support, information about SPHN services, or to report issues, We may collect your contact information, such as name, email address, and phone number, along with the details of your inquiry, issue, or support request. We also maintain your communication history and correspondence with us, gather technical information relevant to resolving your issue, and store any attachments or files you provide to us.

## Use of cookies and Matomo

We use Matomo as a web analytics tool to better understand how visitors interact with the SPHN website and monitor the traffic. Matomo is configured to respect your privacy and does not use third-party cookies. IP addresses are anonymized before storage, and no data is transferred to external services. All non-personal data collected through Matomo is stored securely in Switzerland with our hosting provider OWNBIT GmbH. The information collected is used exclusively to improve our website and is not shared with third parties. You can opt out of Matomo tracking by adjusting your preferences in the cookie banner available on our homepage.

## Access to Personal Data by third parties

Personal Data is solely handled and stored within the SAMS/SIB in Switzerland. We will not sell, nor lease, market and/or lend Personal Data to third parties through the SPHN website. In no event shall Personal Data be transmitted to third parties unless required by law or by an administrative or judicial authority.

With the exception of data disclosed to comply with legal requirements, Personal Data may also be disclosed to the following categories of third parties, acting as subcontractors, in compliance with the applicable legal requirements:

Our web agency OWNBIT GmbH that hosts and maintains the SPHN website, besides organizing, scheduling, building and executing any task related to the SPHN website.

OWNBIT is registred at:

OWNBIT GmbH  
Neustadt 56  
8200 Schaffhausen  
Switzerland

We use services of the software company Atlassian for our ticketing service. Through this service we reply to any questions or requests you may have to us.

Atlassian is registred at:

Atlassian Pty Ltd  
c/o Atlassian, Inc.  
350 Bush Street, Floor 13

San Francisco, CA 94104  
E-Mail: [privacy@atlassian.com](mailto:privacy@atlassian.com)

## Security

We have implemented technical and organizational security measures in accordance with standard regulations, to protect information from any accidental or intentional manipulation, loss, destruction unauthorized disclosure, or unauthorized access. The internet is a global environment. As a result, by sending information to SPHN electronically, such data may be transferred internationally over the internet depending upon your location. Internet is not a secure environment, and this Privacy notice applies to our use of your personal data once it is under our control only.

## Your rights

As a User you have the right to:

- Be informed about how we collect and use data;
- Access the data we hold on you;
- Correct any inaccurate or incomplete data;
- Have your data deleted;
- Restrict processing of your data;
- Obtain a copy of your data;
- Object to us using your data;

Depending on the applicable law, the above-mentioned rights may be subject to specific restriction.

## Data Retention

We process and store your data only as long as necessary for our processing purposes as described above in this Privacy Notice, the legal retention periods and our legitimate interests, or storage is technically required. Certain data may be retained for longer in order to meet statutory requirements or other obligations. If there are no legal, contractual or technical reasons to the contrary, we delete or anonymize your data after the storage or processing period has expired.

## Contact

If you have any questions or a request in relation to the processing of your personal data by SAMS/SIB, you can contact Us at the following address: [info@sphn.ch](mailto:info@sphn.ch)

## Reservation of modifications

This Privacy Notice may require periodic updates, including as part of the evolving regulatory framework for data protection. We encourage You to consult this page regularly to stay informed of the latest version.

Last update: 04 July 2025

Effectively as of: 04 July 2025