

Supplementary information S1 (table) Twin registries worldwide							
Country	Twin Registry Name	Registry Characteristics	Age	Website	N twins/ subjects (approx.) ^A	N twins/ subjectswith DNA available (approx.) ^A	Biospecimens (available for at least subset of the sample)
Africa							
Guinea-Bissau	Bandim Health Project Twin Registry	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	0-30	www.bandim.org	2,500 (twins and singleton controls)	200 twin pairs	Whole blood, plasma
Nigeria	Nigerian Twin and Sibling Registry (NTSR)	Cohort of school children + young adult volunteers	7-24	-	1,300 (twins and sibs)	1,200 (twins and sibs)	Buccal, saliva
Asia and Australia							
Australia	Australian Twin Registry	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	0-90	www.twins.org.au	66,000	12,000 (twins and other family members)	Serum, plasma, buccal
Australia	Western Australian Twin Register (WATR)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	5-30	in transition	11,000 (plus other family members)	600 (twins and other family members)	Whole blood
Australia	Queensland Twin Registry	Systematic ascertainment through schools at age 12 and longitudinal follow-up	12- 32	www.qtwin.org.au	2,000 twin pairs	2800	Blood (including Paxgene tube), saliva; processed to DNA, RNA, serum, plasma, red cells
China	Chinese National Twin Registry (CNTR)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	All	cntr.bjmu.edu.cn	35,000 twin pairs	3,200	Serum, DNA
China	Qingdao Twin Register	Enrollment through medical registration systems, schools, and media publicity	All	-	8,000 twin pairs	1,500 twin pairs	Serum
Korea	The Healthy Twin Study, Korea	Ongoing in-depth survey based on NKTR	20-73	www.twinkorea.org	783 twin pairs	3,480 (twins and first degree relatives)	Serum, plasma, buffy coat, urine, stool, cell-line (lymphocytes)
Korea	The National Korean Twin Registry (NKTR)	No direct person contact. Zygosity information based on sex only. Basic data in adults on health and disease outcome.	8-80	-	187,130 twin pairs	-	None
Korea	South Korean Twin Registry (SKTR)	Volunteer preschoolers, cohort of school children, volunteer young adults	0-30	www.ktrc.org	10,000 twin pairs	800 twin pairs	Hair, saliva
Israel	The Longitudinal Israeli Study of Twins (LIST)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	3-8	www.teomim.com	1,500 twin pairs	1,391 (twins and parents)	Buccal
Japan	Keio Twin Registry	Adult and adolescent twins from the general population in the Tokyo area	14-30	totcop.keio.ac.jp ; kts.keio.ac.jp ; kotrec.keio.ac.jp	4,000 twin pairs (plus other family members)	600 twin pairs	Buccal, blood

Japan	Twin Database of the Secondary School Attached to the Faculty of education of the University of Tokyo	3 cohorts: applicants (11-12 years), students (12-18 years), and graduates (18-72 years). Follow-up of graduates 3 times.	0-80	-	2,200 (plus other family members)	-	None
Japan	Japanese Database of Multiples in Childhood	Main focus of the cohort is on child development	0-12	-	5,000 (plus other family members)	-	None
Japan	The Osaka University Aged Twin Registry	Population-based, cohort-study	50-105	http://www.twin.med.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/	12,000 twin pairs	280 twin pairs	Whole blood, serum, plasma
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan Twin Registry	Voluntary twin registry component and a population-based database with ongoing data collection	6-94	www.ird.lk/Twin%20Registry.php	35,000	Plans to collect DNA from 4,000	Buccal
Europe							
Belgium	East Flanders Prospective Twin Survey (EFPTS)	Population-based at birth, phenotypic characterization in subsets	0-47	www.twinsvzw.com	8,700 twin pairs, 237 triplet sets	1,600 (twins and triplets)	Whole blood, saliva, buccal, placental tissue
Denmark	The Danish Twin Registry (DTR)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	0-107	www.sdu.dk/dtr	170,000	20,000	Serum, plasma, buffy coat, saliva, buccal, urine
Finland	Finnish Twin Cohort study	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	11-100+	www.twinstudy.helsinki.fi	87,500 (plus family members)	14,600 (twins and family members)	Whole blood, serum, plasma, saliva, urine, stool, fat and muscle by biopsy
Germany	HealthTwiSt: The Berlin Twin Registry	Registry operated as a CRO. Focus on health, functional genomics and nutraceuticals	16-80	www.zwillingsstudie.de	2,000 twin pairs	550 twin pairs	Whole blood
Germany	CoSMoS (Twin study on Cognitive Ability, Self-Reported Motivation, and School Achievement)	Longitudinal study of voluntarily enrolled twins with 3 measurement occasions.	7-11	www.uni-saarland.de/fak5/diff	808	-	None
Germany	TwinPaW (Twin study on Personality and Well-being)	Cross-sectional study of voluntarily enrolled twins	15-71	www.uni-saarland.de/fak5/diff	608	-	None
Germany	SOEP- twin project	Cross-sectional representative multi-group design, including twins, full sibs, mother-child and grandparent-child pairs. Subset with longitudinal data.	17-70	www.uni-saarland.de/fak5/diff	860 (plus other relatives)	-	None
Germany	Chronotyp-twin project (ChronoS)	Cross-sectional study of voluntarily enrolled twins.	17-70	www.uni-saarland.de/fak5/diff	755	-	None

Germany	Bielefeld Longitudinal Study of Adult Twins (BiLSAT)	Voluntary twin sample with longitudinal follow-up 5 times over 15 years	16-88	www.uni-bielefeld.de/psychologie/ae/AE04/Forschung/index.html	2,404	-	None
Germany	Jena Twin Study of Social Attitudes (JeTSSA)	Cross-sectional study of voluntarily registered twins and their parents and spouses	17-82	www.uni-bielefeld.de/psychologie/ae/AE04/Forschung/index.html	875	-	None
Italy	Italian Twin Register	Phenotypic characterization in subsets of the sample and longitudinal data collection in newborns	0-99	www.iss.it/gemelli	25,000	2400	Whole blood, serum, plasma, buffy coat, saliva
Netherlands	Netherlands Twin Register (NTR)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	0-100	http://www.tweelingenregister.org/en/	40,000 (plus family members)	18,000	DNA, RNA, cell lines, serum, plasma, buccal, urine
Norway	Norwegian Twin Registry (NTR)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	18+	www.fhi.no/twins	40,000	4,800	Whole blood, buccal swabs, plasma
Spain	Murcia Twin Register (MTR)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	45-71	http://www.um.es/registrogemelos/ing/index.html	2,281	743 (female twins)	Whole blood, saliva (gDNA, plasma & PBMC)
Sweden	Swedish Twin Register (STR)	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	5-100+	http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?sessionId=acR0ziTHzWEcIO_cNC?l=en&d=9610	194,000	44,600	Whole blood, serum, saliva
UK	TwinsUK registry	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	18-90	www.twinsuk.ac.uk	12,000	7,000	Whole blood, serum, plasma, buffy coat, saliva, buccal, urine, skin, fat, muscle
UK	The Cardiff Study of All Wales and North West of England Twins (CaStANET)	Population-based		http://medicine.cf.ac.uk/psychological-medicine-neuroscience/areas-research/child-and-adolescent-psychiatry/castanet-twin-register/	6000 twin families	300 twin pairs	None
UK	Twins Early Development Study (TEDS)	Population-based		http://www.teds.ac.uk/	10,000 twin pairs	10,000	None
UK	The Twins and Multiple Births Association Heritability Study (TAMBAHS)	Volunteer-based cohort of twins - closed to participation	0-5	www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/mds/projects/HaPS/PHEB/UROGENEPID/projects/TAMBAhs.aspx	1,600 (plus parents)	-	None
UK	Birmingham Registry for Twin and Heritability Studies (BiRTHS)	Population-based cohort with ongoing follow-up	prenatal-4	www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/mds/projects/HaPS/PHEB/UROGENEPID/projects/BiRTHS	250 (including mothers)	50	Cord blood, saliva
North America							
Canada	University of British Columbia Twin Project	National cross-section sample of general adult population	18-93	-	2,000 twin pairs	-	None
USA	California Twin Program	Population-based native residents	cohort born 1908-1982	twins.usc.edu	115,000 located, 37,000 twin pairs with complete phenotypic characterization	3,400	Extracted DNA, frozen white cells, serum, plasma salivary DNA, DNA from buccal scrapings

USA	Colorado Twin Registry	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	1-41	ibg.colorado.edu/research/ctr.html	14,000 (plus family members)	5,500 (twins and family members)	Extracted saliva-derived DNA
USA	Florida State Twin Registry (FSTR)	Twins and other multiples enrolled in Florida schools (grades K-5)	5-13	www.psy.fsu.edu/~taylorlab/TwinRsch.htm	2,591 twin pairs (and other multiples)	-	None
USA	Georgia Carolina Cardiovascular Twin Study	Longitudinal study, mixed sample of American twins of various ancestries recruited at public middle and high schools.		-	1,664	1,607	
USA	International Twin Study	Continent-wide volunteers with chronic disease	All ages	twins.usc.edu	17,000 twin pairs	1,000	Extracted DNA, Frozen white cells, salivary DNA, serum, stool
USA	Michigan State University Twin Registry	Population-based and high-risk samples, some of which are longitudinal	3-30	www.msutwinstudies.com	20,000 (plus family)	4,100 (plus family)	Saliva, buccal, blood spots
USA	Mid-Atlantic Twin Registry (MATR)	Population-based, ascertained at birth	0-94	www.matr.vcu.edu	56,000	1,500	Whole blood, serum, plasma, buffy coat, saliva, buccal
USA	Minnesota Twin Family Study	Ongoing population-based longitudinal study	11-47	mctfr.psych.umn.edu	5,000 (plus family)	10,000 (twins and family members)	Blood-derived or saliva-derived DNA
USA	Minnesota Twin Registry	Cross-sectional sample of twins born between 1936 and 1964. Subsamples followed up through surveys	28-56	www.mntwin.umn.edu	15,000 (plus family)	-	None
USA	Missouri Family Registry	Vital record ascertained	1.5- 44	-	25,979	2,575	Blood, saliva, fecal
USA	NAS-NRC (National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council) Twin Registry of World War II Male Veterans	Male twins born between 1917-27, both of whom served in the military, mostly during World War II	85-95	iom.edu/Activities/Veterans/TwinsStudy.aspx	31,848	700+	Blood and other materials collected for various investigations
USA	NAS-NRC (National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council) Twin Registry of World War II Male Veterans – Duke Twins Study Component	Longitudinal data collection from 1990 – 2006, primary aims to investigate cognitive decline and dementia in later life.	85-95	aging-memory.duhs.duke.edu/twins.html	13,000	770	Post-mortem brain tissue, DNA from buccal or blood

USA	Pittsburgh Registry of Infant Multiplets (PRIM)	Population-based database of twins ascertained at birth – currently no follow-up data	-	www.pitt.edu/~mmv/prim/prim.htm	2,956	-	None
USA	University of Washington Twin Registry	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	18-97	depts.washington.edu/uwccer/	6,688 twin pairs	8,700	Whole blood, saliva, serum, plasma, urine, buccal
USA	Vietnam Era Twin Registry (VET Registry)	Closed cohort of male twins whom served in the military during the Vietnam conflict (1964-1975)	54-72	www.seattle.eric.research.va.gov/VETR/Home.asp	14,760 (plus offspring and spouses of twins)	1,685	Whole blood, serum, plasma
USA	Wisconsin Twin Panel (WTP)	Population based, longitudinal data, extensive phenotypic characterization, follow up of selected samples	0-23	www.waisman.wisc.edu/twinresearch	19,638 twins (plus parents and sibs)	3,489 (twins, parents, sibs)	Saliva, buccal
South America							
Chile	The University of Chile School-Age Children Twin Registry (REMEUCHI)	Cohort of school children graduated from high school	18	-	327 twin pairs	-	None
Cuba	Cuban Twin Registry	Population-based with ongoing longitudinal data collection	All	-	55,400 twin pairs	250 twin pairs	Blood-derived DNA

Abbreviations: CRO= Contract research organization

[^] Numbers refer to individual twins (rather than twin pairs) unless indicated otherwise