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[John Wilbanks](#) is the Chief Commons Officer at Sage Bionetworks. Previously, John worked as a legislative aide to Congressman Fortney “Pete” Stark, served as the first assistant director at Harvard’s Berkman Center for Internet & Society, founded and led to acquisition the bioinformatics company Incellico, Inc., and was executive director of the Science Commons project at Creative Commons. In February 2013, in response to a We the People petition that was spearheaded by John and signed by 65,000 people, the U.S. government announced a plan to open up taxpayer-funded research data and make it available for free. John holds a B.A. in philosophy from Tulane University and also studied modern letters at the Sorbonne.

Along with Mark Rothstein, he serves as co-PI of “Addressing ELSI Issues in Unregulated Health Research Using Mobile Devices,” a three-year grant funded by the National Cancer Institute, the National Human Genome Research Institute, the Office of Science Policy, and the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health.

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