# Package 'cBioPortalData'

July 25, 2025

**Title** Exposes and Makes Available Data from the cBioPortal Web Resources

**Version** 2.21.5

Description The cBioPortalData R package accesses study datasets from the cBio Cancer Genomics Portal. It accesses the data either from the pre-packaged zip / tar files or from the API interface that was recently implemented by the cBioPortal Data Team. The package can provide data in either tabular format or with MultiAssayExperiment object that uses familiar Bioconductor data representations.

**Depends** R (>= 4.5.0), AnVIL (>= 1.19.5), MultiAssayExperiment

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cBioCache

Manage cache / download directories for study data

# **Description**

Managing data downloads is important to save disk space and avoid re-downloading data files. This can be done via the integrated BiocFileCache system.

# Usage

```
cBioCache(..., ask = interactive())
setCache(
  directory = tools::R_user_dir("cBioPortalData", "cache"),
  verbose = TRUE,
  ask = interactive()
)
removePackCache(cancer_study_id, dry.run = TRUE)
```

# Arguments

• • •	For cBioCache, arguments passed to setCache			
ask	logical (default TRUE when interactive session) Confirm the file location of the cache directory			
directory	The file location where the cache is located. Once set future downloads will go to this folder.			
verbose	Whether to print descriptive messages			
cancer_study_id				
	character(1) The studyId from getStudies			
dry.run	logical Whether or not to remove cache files (default TRUE).			

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#### Value

cBioCache: The path to the cache location

# cBioCache

Get the directory location of the cache. It will prompt the user to create a cache if not already created. A specific directory can be used via setCache.

#### setCache

Specify the directory location of the data cache. By default, it will go to the user directory as given by:

```
tools::R_user_dir("cBioPortalData", "cache")
```

#### removePackCache

Some files may become corrupt when downloading, this function allows the user to delete the tarball associated with a cancer\_study\_id in the cache. This only works for the cBioDataPack function. To remove the entire cBioPortalData cache, run unlink("~/.cache/cBioPortalData").

# **Examples**

```
cBioCache()
removePackCache("acc_tcga", dry.run = TRUE)
```

cBioCache-defunct

Defunct cache helper functions

#### **Description**

cBioPortalData no longer caches data from API responses; therefore, removeDataCache is no longer needed. It will be removed as soon as the next release of Bioconductor.

#### Usage

```
removeDataCache(
    api,
    studyId = NA_character_,
    genePanelId = NA_character_,
    genes = NA_character_,
    molecularProfileIds = NULL,
    sampleListId = NULL,
    sampleIds = NULL,
    by = c("entrezGeneId", "hugoGeneSymbol"),
    dry.run = TRUE,
    ...
)
```

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#### Arguments

An API object of class cBioPortal from the cBioPortal function api studyId character(1) Indicates the "studyId" as taken from getStudies character(1) Identifies the gene panel, as obtained from the genePanels funcgenePanelId character() Either Entrez gene identifiers or Hugo gene symbols. When ingenes cluded, the 'by' argument indicates the type of identifier provided and 'genePanelId' is ignored. Preference is given to Entrez IDs due to faster query responses. molecularProfileIds character() A vector of molecular profile IDs sampleListId character(1) A sample list identifier as obtained from sampleLists() sampleIds character() Sample identifiers character(1) Either 'entrezGeneId' or 'hugoGeneSymbol' for row metadata by (default: 'entrezGeneId')

#### Value

removeDataCache: The path to the cache location when dry.run = FALSE if the file exists. Otherwise, when dry.run = TRUE, the function return the output of the file.remove operation.

logical Whether or not to remove cache files (default TRUE).

Additional arguments to lower level API functions

#### removeDataCache

dry.run

Remove the computed cache location based on the function inputs to cBioPortalData(). To remove the cache, simply replace the cBiocPortalData() function name with removeDataCache(); see the example. If the computed cache location is not found, it will return an empty vector.

#### **Examples**

```
cbio <- cBioPortal()

cBioPortalData(
    cbio, by = "hugoGeneSymbol",
    studyId = "acc_tcga",
    genePanelId = "AmpliSeq",
    molecularProfileIds =
        c("acc_tcga_rppa", "acc_tcga_linear_CNA", "acc_tcga_mutations")
)</pre>
```

cBioDataPack Obtain pre-packaged data from cBioPortal and represent as a Multi-AssayExperiment object

# **Description**

The cBioDataPack function allows the user to download and process cancer study datasets found in MSKCC's cBioPortal. Output datasets use the MultiAssayExperiment data representation to faciliate analysis and data management operations.

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#### **Usage**

```
cBioDataPack(
  cancer_study_id,
  use_cache = TRUE,
  names.field = c("Hugo_Symbol", "Entrez_Gene_Id", "Gene"),
  cleanup = TRUE,
  ask = interactive(),
  check_build = TRUE
)
```

# **Arguments**

cancer\_study\_id

character(1) The study identifier from cBioPortal as seen in the dataset links

at https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets.

use\_cache logical(1) (default TRUE) create the default cache location and use it to track

downloaded data. If data found in the cache, data will not be re-downloaded. A

path can also be provided to data cache location.

names.field character() Possible column names for the column that will used to label

ranges for data such as mutations or copy number (defaults: "Hugo\_Symbol", "Entrez\_Gene\_Id", "Gene", and "Composite.Element.REF"). Values are cycled through and eliminated when no data present, or duplicates are found. Values in

the corresponding column must be unique in each row.

cleanup logical(1) whether to delete the untar-red contents from the exdir folder

(default TRUE)

ask logical(1) Whether to prompt the user before downloading and loading

study MultiAssayExperiment that is not currently building based on previous testing. Set to interactive() by default. In a non-interactive session, data download will be attempted; equivalent to ask = FALSE. The argument will also be used when a cache directory needs to be created when using downloadStudy.

check\_build logical(1L) Whether to check the build status of the studyId using an internal

dataset. This argument should be set to FALSE if using alternative hostnames,

e.g., 'pedcbioportal.kidsfirstdrc.org'

# Details

The full list of study identifiers (studyIds) can obtained from getStudies(). Currently, only ~ 72% of datasets can be represented as MultiAssayExperiment data objects from the data tarballs. Refer to getStudies(..., buildReport = TRUE) and its "pack\_build" column to see which study identifiers are not building. Users who would like to prioritize particular datasets should open GitHub issues at the URL in the DESCRIPTION file. For a more fine-grained approach to downloading data from the cBioPortal API, refer to the cBioPortalData function.

#### Value

A MultiAssayExperiment object

#### cBio\_URL

The cBioDataPack function accesses data from the cBio\_URL option. By default, it points to an Amazon S3 bucket location. Previously, it pointed to 'http://download.cbioportal.org'. This recent

change (> 2.1.17) should provide faster and more reliable downloads for all users. See the URL using cBioPortalData:::.url\_location. This can be changed if there are mirrors that host this data by setting the cBio\_URL option with getOption("cBio\_URL", "https://some.url.com/") before running the function.

# Author(s)

Levi Waldron, Marcel R., Ino dB.

#### See Also

https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets, cBioPortalData, removePackCache

#### **Examples**

```
cbio <- cBioPortal()
head(getStudies(cbio)[["studyId"]])
mae <- cBioDataPack("acc_tcga")</pre>
```

cBioPortal

The R interface to the cBioPortal API Data Service

#### **Description**

This section of the documentation lists the functions that allow users to access the cBioPortal API. The main representation of the API can be obtained from the cBioPortal function. The supporting functions listed here give access to specific parts of the API and allow the user to explore the API with individual calls. Many of the functions here are listed for documentation purposes and are recommended for advanced usage only. Users should only need to use the cBioPortalData main function to obtain data.

# Usage

```
cBioPortal(
  hostname = "www.cbioportal.org",
  protocol = "https",
  api. = "/api/v2/api-docs",
  token = character()
)

getStudies(api, buildReport = FALSE)

clinicalData(api, studyId = NA_character_)

molecularProfiles(
  api,
  studyId = NA_character_,
  projection = c("SUMMARY", "ID", "DETAILED", "META")
)
```

```
fetchData(
  api,
  studyId,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL
mutationData(
  api,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL
)
molecularData(
  api,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL
copyNumberData(
  api,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL,
  sampleListId = NULL,
 discreteCopyNumberEventType = c("HOMDEL_AND_AMP", "HOMDEL", "AMP", "GAIN", "HETLOSS",
    "DIPLOID", "ALL"),
  projection = c("SUMMARY", "ID", "DETAILED", "META")
searchOps(api, keyword)
samplesInSampleLists(api, sampleListIds = NA_character_)
sampleLists(api, studyId = NA_character_)
allSamples(api, studyId = NA_character_)
getSampleInfo(
  api,
  studyId = NA_character_,
  sampleListIds = NULL,
  projection = c("SUMMARY", "ID", "DETAILED", "META")
genePanels(api)
getGenePanel(api, genePanelId = NA_character_)
```

```
genePanelMolecular(
 api,
 molecularProfileId = NA_character_,
 sampleListId = NULL,
 sampleIds = NULL
getGenePanelMolecular(api, molecularProfileIds = NA_character_, sampleIds)
geneTable(api, pageSize = 1000, pageNumber = 0, ...)
queryGeneTable(
 api,
 by = c("entrezGeneId", "hugoGeneSymbol"),
 genes = NA_character_,
 genePanelId = NA_character_
getDataByGenes(
 api,
 studyId = NA_character_,
 genes = NA_character_,
 genePanelId = NA_character_,
 by = c("entrezGeneId", "hugoGeneSymbol"),
 molecularProfileIds = NULL,
 sampleListId = NULL,
 sampleIds = NULL,
)
```

# **Arguments**

hostname	character(1) The internet location of the service (default: 'www.cbioportal.org')			
protocol	character(1) The internet protocol used to access the hostname (default: 'https')			
api.	character(1) The directory location of the API protocol within the hostname (default: '/api/v2/api-docs')			
token	character(1) The Authorization Bearer token e.g., "63eba81c-2591-4e15-9d1c-fb6e8e51e35d" or a path to text file.			
api	An API object of class cBioPortal from the cBioPortal function			
buildReport	logical(1) Indicates whether to append the build information to the getStudies() table (default FALSE)			
studyId	character(1) Indicates the "studyId" as taken from getStudies			
projection	character(1) (default: "SUMMARY") Specify the projection type for data retrieval for details see API documentation			
molecularProfileIds				
	character() A vector of molecular profile IDs			
entrezGeneIds	numeric() A vector indicating entrez gene IDs			
sampleIds	character() Sample identifiers			
sampleListId	character(1) A sample list identifier as obtained from sampleLists()			

discreteCopyNumberEventType

character(1) The copy number event type to filter on. Must be one of "HOMDEL\_AND\_AMP"

(default), "HOMDEL", "AMP", "GAIN", "HETLOSS", "DIPLOID", or "ALL"

keyword character(1) Keyword or pattern for searching through available operations

sampleListIds character() A vector of 'sampleListId' as obtained from sampleLists

genePanelId character(1) Identifies the gene panel, as obtained from the genePanels func-

tion

molecularProfileId

character(1) Indicates a molecular profile ID

pageSize numeric(1) The number of rows in the table to return

pageNumber numeric(1) The pagination page number

... Additional arguments to lower level API functions

by character(1) Either 'entrezGeneId' or 'hugoGeneSymbol' for row metadata

(default: 'entrezGeneId')

genes character() Either Entrez gene identifiers or Hugo gene symbols. When in-

cluded, the 'by' argument indicates the type of identifier provided and 'genePanelId' is ignored. Preference is given to Entrez IDs due to faster query responses.

#### Value

• cBioPortal: An API object of class 'cBioPortal'

• cBioPortalData: A data object of class 'MultiAssayExperiment'

#### **API Metadata**

- getStudies: Obtain a table of studies and associated metadata and optionally include a buildReport status (default FALSE) for each study. When enabled, the 'api\_build' and 'pack\_build' columns will be added to the table and will show if MultiAssayExperiment objects can be generated for that particular study identifier (studyId). The 'api\_build' column corresponds to datasets obtained with cBioPortalData and the 'pack\_build' column corresponds to datsets loaded via cBioDataPack.
- searchOps Search through API operations with a keyword
- sampleLists obtain all sampleListIds for a particular studyId
- allSamples obtain all samples within a particular studyId
- genePanels Show all available gene panels
- geneTable Get a table of all genes by 'entrezGeneId' and 'hugoGeneSymbol'
- queryGeneTable Get a table for only the genes or genePanelId of interest. Gene inputs are identified with the by argument

#### **Patient Data**

• clinicalData - Obtain clinical data for a particular study identifier ('studyId')

#### **Molecular Profiles**

• molecularProfiles - Produce a molecular profiles dataset for a given study identifier ('studyId')

#### Molecular Data

• fetchData - A convenience function to download both mutation and molecular data with molecularProfileId, entrezGeneIds, and sampleIds

- mutationData Produce a dataset of mutation data using molecularProfileId, entrezGeneIds, and sampleIds
- molecularData Produce a dataset of molecular profile data based on molecularProfileId, entrezGeneIds, and sampleIds

#### **Copy Number Data**

• copyNumberData - Produce a dataset of copy number data based on molecularProfileId, sampleListId, discreteCopyNumberEventType, and projection

#### Sample Data

- samplesInSampleLists get all samples associated with a 'sampleListId'
- getSampleInfo Obtain sample metadata for a particular studyId or sampleListId

#### **Gene Panels**

- getGenePanels Obtain the gene panel for a particular 'genePanelId'
- genePanelMolecular get gene panel data for a particular molecularProfileId and either a vector of sampleListId or sampleId
- getGenePanelMolecular get gene panel data for multiple molecularProfileIds and a vector of sampleIds

#### Genes

• getDataByGenes - Download data for a number of genes within molecularProfileId indicators, optionally a sampleListId can be provided.

#### **Examples**

```
cbio <- cBioPortal()

getStudies(api = cbio)

clinicalData(cbio, "acc_tcga")

molecularProfiles(cbio, "acc_tcga")

fetchData(
    api = cbio, studyId = "acc_tcga",
    molecularProfileIds = c(
        "acc_tcga_mutations", "acc_tcga_gistic", "acc_tcga_rppa"
    ),
    entrezGeneIds = 1:1000,
    sampleIds = c("TCGA-OR-A5J1-01", "TCGA-OR-A5J2-01")
)
mutationData(</pre>
```

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```
api = cbio,
    molecularProfileIds = "acc_tcga_mutations",
    entrezGeneIds = 1:1000,
    sampleIds = c("TCGA-OR-A5J1-01", "TCGA-OR-A5J2-01")
)
molecularData(
    api = cbio,
    molecularProfileIds = c("acc_tcga_rna_seq_v2_mrna", "acc_tcga_rppa"),
    entrezGeneIds = 1:100,
    sampleIds = c("TCGA-OR-A5J1-01", "TCGA-OR-A5J2-01")
)
## obtain molecularProfileId for discrete copy number alteration data
molecularProfiles(cbio, "acc_tcga") |>
    dplyr::filter(
        molecularAlterationType == "COPY_NUMBER_ALTERATION" &
        datatype == "DISCRETE"
    )
copyNumberData(
    api = cbio,
    molecularProfileIds = "acc_tcga_gistic",
    entrezGeneIds = 25,
    sampleListId = "acc_tcga_all"
searchOps(api = cbio, keyword = "molecular")
samplesInSampleLists(
    api = cbio,
    sampleListIds = c("acc_tcga_rppa", "acc_tcga_cnaseq")
)
sampleLists(api = cbio, studyId = "acc_tcga")
genePanels(cbio)
getGenePanel(cbio, "AmpliSeq")
queryGeneTable(api = cbio, by = "entrezGeneId", genes = 7157)
getDataByGenes(
    api = cbio,
    studyId = "acc_tcga",
    genes = 1,
    by = "entrezGeneId",
    molecularProfileIds = "acc_tcga_rna_seq_v2_mrna",
    sampleListId = "acc_tcga_rna_seq_v2_mrna"
)
```

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#### **Description**

The cBioPortal class is a representation of the cBioPortal API protocol that directly inherits from the Service class in the AnVIL package. For more information, see the AnVIL package.

# Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'cBioPortal'
operations(x, ..., .deprecated = FALSE)
```

# **Arguments**

x A AnVIL instance or API representation as given by the cBioPortal function.

... additional arguments passed to methods or, for operations, Service-method,

to the internal get\_operation() function.

.deprecated optional logical(1) include deprecated operations?

#### **Details**

This class takes the static API as provided at <a href="https://www.cbioportal.org/api/v2/api-docs">https://www.cbioportal.org/api/v2/api-docs</a> and creates an R object with the help from underlying infrastructure (i.e., rapiclient and AnVIL) to give the user a unified representation of the API specification provided by the cBioPortal group. Users are not expected to interact with this class other than to use it as input to the functionality provided by the rest of the package.

# Value

A cBioPortal class instance

#### **Functions**

• operations (cBioPortal): List all the operations available with the cBioPortal API object, e.g., api\$operation

#### See Also

```
cBioPortal, AnVIL
```

# **Examples**

```
cBioPortal()
```

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cBioPortalData	Download data from the cBioPortal API
CDIOI OI LAIDALA	Downtoud data from the Chiof ortal Al I

#### **Description**

Obtain a MultiAssayExperiment object for a particular gene panel, studyId, molecularProfileIds, and sampleListIds combination. Default molecularProfileIds and sampleListIds are set to NULL for including all data. This option is best for users who wish to obtain a section of the study data that pertains to a specific molecular profile and gene panel combination. For users looking to download the entire study data as provided by the https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets, refer to cBioDataPack.

# Usage

```
cBioPortalData(
    api,
    studyId = NA_character_,
    genePanelId = NA_character_,
    genes = NA_character_,
    molecularProfileIds = NULL,
    sampleListId = NULL,
    sampleIds = NULL,
    by = c("entrezGeneId", "hugoGeneSymbol"),
    check_build = TRUE,
    ask = interactive()
)
```

#### Arguments

api	An API object of class cBioPortal from the cBioPortal function
studyId	character(1) Indicates the "studyId" as taken from getStudies

genePanelId character(1) Identifies the gene panel, as obtained from the genePanels func-

tion

genes character() Either Entrez gene identifiers or Hugo gene symbols. When in-

cluded, the 'by' argument indicates the type of identifier provided and 'genePanelId' is ignored. Preference is given to Entrez IDs due to faster query responses.

molecularProfileIds

character() A vector of molecular profile IDs

sampleListId character(1) A sample list identifier as obtained from sampleLists()

sampleIds character() Sample identifiers

by character(1) Either 'entrezGeneId' or 'hugoGeneSymbol' for row metadata

(default: 'entrezGeneId')

check\_build logical(1L) Whether to check the build status of the studyId using an internal

dataset. This argument should be set to FALSE if using alternative hostnames,

e.g., 'pedcbioportal.kidsfirstdrc.org'

ask logical(1) Whether to prompt the user before downloading and loading

study MultiAssayExperiment that is not currently building based on previous testing. Set to interactive() by default. In a non-interactive session, data download will be attempted; equivalent to ask = FALSE. The argument will also be used when a cache directory needs to be created when using downloadStudy.

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#### **Details**

We are able to successfully represent 98 percent of the study identifiers as MultiAssayExperiment objects as obtained via cBioPortalData with the IMPACT341 genePanelId as the example gene panel. Datasets that currently fail to import can be seen in the getStudies(..., buildReport = TRUE) dataset under the "api\_build" column. Note that changes to the cBioPortal API may affect this rate at any time. If you encounter any issues, please open a GitHub issue at the https://github.com/waldronlab/cBioPortalData/issues/ page with a fully reproducible example.

#### Value

A MultiAssayExperiment object

#### See Also

cBioDataPack, removeDataCache

# **Examples**

```
cbio <- cBioPortal()

samps <- samplesInSampleLists(cbio, "acc_tcga_rppa")[[1]]

getGenePanelMolecular(
    cbio, molecularProfileIds = c("acc_tcga_rppa", "acc_tcga_linear_CNA"),
    samps
)

acc_tcga <- cBioPortalData(
    cbio, by = "hugoGeneSymbol",
    studyId = "acc_tcga",
    genePanelId = "AmpliSeq",
    molecularProfileIds =
        c("acc_tcga_rppa", "acc_tcga_linear_CNA", "acc_tcga_mutations")
)</pre>
```

downloadStudy

Manually download, untar, and load study tarballs

#### **Description**

Note that these functions should be used when a particular study is *not* currently available as a MultiAssayExperiment representation. Otherwise, use cBioDataPack. Provide a cancer\_study\_id from getStudies and retrieve the study tarball from the cBio Genomics Portal. These functions are used by cBioDataPack under the hood to download,untar, and load the tarball datasets with caching. As stated in ?cBioDataPack, not all studies are currently working as MultiAssayExperiment objects. As of July 2020, about ~80% of datasets can be successfully imported into the MultiAssayExperiment data class. Please open an issue if you would like the team to prioritize a study. You may also check getStudies(buildReport = TRUE)\$pack\_build for the current status.

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#### Usage

```
downloadStudy(
   cancer_study_id,
   use_cache = TRUE,
   force = FALSE,
   url_location = getOption("cBio_URL", .url_location),
   ask = interactive()
)
untarStudy(cancer_study_file, exdir = tempdir())

loadStudy(
   filepath,
   names.field = c("Hugo_Symbol", "Entrez_Gene_Id", "Gene", "Composite.Element.REF"),
   cleanup = TRUE
)
```

#### **Arguments**

cancer\_study\_id

character(1) The study identifier from cBioPortal as seen in the dataset links

at https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets.

use\_cache logical(1) (default TRUE) create the default cache location and use it to track

downloaded data. If data found in the cache, data will not be re-downloaded. A

path can also be provided to data cache location.

force logical(1) (default FALSE) whether to force re-download data from remote

location

 $\verb|url_location| character(1) (default "https://cbioportal-datahub.s3.amazonaws.com") the URL \\$ 

location for downloading packaged data. Can be set using the 'cBio\_URL' op-

tion (see ?cBioDataPack for more details)

ask logical(1) Whether to prompt the user before downloading and loading

study MultiAssayExperiment that is not currently building based on previous testing. Set to interactive() by default. In a non-interactive session, data download will be attempted; equivalent to ask = FALSE. The argument will also be used when a cache directory needs to be created when using downloadStudy.

cancer\_study\_file

character(1) indicates the on-disk location of the downloaded tarball

exdir character(1) indicates the folder location to *put* the contents of the tarball

(default tempdir(); see also ?untar)

filepath character(1) indicates the folder location where the contents of the tarball are

*located* (usually the same as exdir)

names.field character() Possible column names for the column that will used to label

ranges for data such as mutations or copy number (defaults: "Hugo\_Symbol", "Entrez\_Gene\_Id", "Gene", and "Composite.Element.REF"). Values are cycled through and eliminated when no data present, or duplicates are found. Values in

the corresponding column must be unique in each row.

cleanup logical(1) whether to delete the untar-red contents from the exdir folder

(default TRUE)

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#### **Details**

When attempting to load a dataset using loadStudy, note that the cleanup argument is set to TRUE by default. Change the argument to FALSE if you would like to keep the untarred data in the exdir location. downloadStudy and untarStudy are not affected by this change. The tarball of the downloaded data is cached via BiocFileCache when use\_cache is TRUE.

# Value

- downloadStudy The file location of the data tarball
- untarStudy The directory location of the contents
- loadStudy A MultiAssayExperiment-class object

#### See Also

```
cBioDataPack, MultiAssayExperiment
```

# **Examples**

```
acc_file <- downloadStudy("acc_tcga")
acc_file
file_dir <- untarStudy(acc_file, tempdir())
file_dir
loadStudy(file_dir)</pre>
```

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