Data Sharing in Research

Modified: November 2019

Background:

Effective on October 1, 2015, the NIH implemented a mandatory data sharing policy. The reason stated is, “Data sharing advances the NIH mission by facilitating the validation of research results, and allowing the strength of analyses to be increased by combining datasets, providing access to unique data that cannot be readily replicated, informing future research, increasing the return on investment of scientific research, and accelerating the translation of research results into knowledge, products, and procedures to improve the public health.” As of 1 July 2018, manuscripts submitted to International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) journals that report the results of clinical trials must contain a data sharing statement. Some other funding agencies also have data sharing requirements attached to their funding.

1. Q: What if my study is registered with ct.gov?

Then there is nothing else you need to do. Registration in ct.gov requires data sharing and meets the requirement of NIH, the ICMJE and most other funding agencies.

2. Q: What if my study involves genome-wide data (GWAS)?

Please refer to the Investigator Guideline on this topic.

3. Q: What if my study does not fall under items #1 or #2, but an ICMJE journal or my funding agency requires my research data to be shared on a publically accessible data base?

There are numerous publically accessible data bases for research [https://www.library.ucsb.edu/search-research/free-databases](https://www.library.ucsb.edu/search-research/free-databases). If you will be sharing your data in this manner, please complete the Data Sharing form on the IRB website which may include other attachments as directed. The IRB must be notified in your original submission of the study, or in a revision to your already IRB approved study.