

Ethical Codes for Data Sharing

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Ethical codes for data sharing

- Develop and sign a collaborative research **agreement**

Ethical codes for data sharing

- Data should be **strictly quality controlled**, in the field, at the data entry stage, and at the final database checking stage.
- Data quality control is the **responsibility** of the principal investigators.
- Data should be used only with **consultation** with the data owners.
- Data should be **analyzed cooperatively** by all scientists involved in obtaining them.

Ethical codes for data sharing

- **All authorship rules** apply for authorship of publications resulted from data sharing.
- Transfer of any data between project participants does not imply the **transfer of rights** to publication of the data.
- Data users need to confirm that they respect in full the **Collaboration Research Agreement** before data access is granted.

Ethical codes for data sharing

- State in the paper or an electronic appendix the **source of the data** for each site.
- All data users should inform the members of their **proposed scientific questions** well in advance of any submissions, and to be willing to **invite** co-authorship from data contributors.
- **Involve** other contributing participants in the analysis, and writing, whenever this is appropriate.
- Any publication or presentation requires the **agreement of the site PIs**.

Ethical codes for data sharing

- Publications resulting from work under collaboration should be co-authored by **all scientists who have participated substantially in the work**, unless some participants choose not to be on the authors list.
- All main investigators should be informed of publication plans **well in advance of submission** of a paper, given an opportunity to read the manuscript, and be offered co-authorship.

Automatic Authorship??

Oxford group reverses authorship requirements for sharing data after questions from Retraction Watch

with 4 comments

It seemed like an egregious violation of academic standards.

A researcher forwarded us a data access agreement from the University of Oxford, in which Schedule 4 read as follows:



Data Users who make use of Licensed Data must cite the relevant primary original publications (Fairfax BP et al. 2012 Genetics of gene expression in primary immune cells identifies cell-specific master regulators and roles of HLA alleles. *Nature Genetics* **44**, 502–510; Fairfax BP et al. 2014 Innate Immune Activity Conditions Effects of Regulatory Variants upon Monocyte Gene Expression. *Science* **343**: 1246949). Authors utilising genotyping data are required to list the following individuals as co-Authors on any publications: “BP Fairfax, S Makino, JC Knight”.

Funding for the project was provided by the Wellcome Trust under awards Grants 088891 [B.P.F.], 074318 [J.C.K.] and 075491/Z/04 to the core facilities at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics), the European Research Council under the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007–2013) (281824 to J.C.K.), the Medical Research Council (98082, J.C.K.) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

In other words: You want to use our data? Sure thing, just cite our papers and make us co-authors. We showed this to a few scientists, all of whom found it unusual, to say the least. One used much more colorful language before the word “ridiculous.”

But to the Oxford team’s credit, they’ve decided to change the language now that we’ve brought scientists’ concerns to their attention. Julian Knight, the “JC Knight” in the agreement, wrote us this message in response to some questions about their rationale:



You raise an important point and in practice when the question of authorship has arisen, we have discussed this with the scientists involved using the data with a view to authorship only where there has been a scientifically appropriate contribution within a formal collaboration.



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Automatic Authorship?

- The right to automatic co-authorship is retained for **five years** after contribution of the data. When only data that were contributed five or more years before the submission date of a manuscript are used from a site, the role of that and other such sites' principal investigators may be reflected by the use of the term "... Consortium" in the author list. The title page of the manuscript will then also include the names of all the relevant contributing members of the ... consortium as a footnote.

A sample

Automatic Authorship?

- Where data are used for **modelling** or **large-scale integrating studies**, the scientists responsible for collecting the data have an automatic right to co-authorship in any resulting papers or presentations that publish significant aspects of their site data, irrespective of their level of involvement in the analysis and writing of the final paper, for five years after data are contributed.

A sample