



The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis Data and Materials Distribution Agreement

The undersigned parties hereby enter into this Data and Materials Distribution Agreement (DMDA) on the date the last party hereto signs the SIGNATURE PAGE below (the “Effective Date”).

INTRODUCTION

The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) is described at [<https://www.mesa-nhlbi.org/>].

To protect the confidentiality and privacy of MESA participants and their families, investigators granted access to **Data** and **Materials** must adhere to the requirements of this DMDA. Failure to comply with this DMDA could result in its termination, denial of further access to MESA or other National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) resources, and may leave violators subject to legal action on the part of MESA participants, their families, or actions brought by the United States of America (U.S. Government).

The undersigned parties entering into this DMDA include: the **Recipient** (defined in the next section), the NHLBI, and the Coordinating Center for MESA, on behalf of MESA and under the direction of the MESA Steering Committee.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this DMDA,

“**Genetic Analysis Data**” refers to any and all information derived from genetic material and any and all **data** derived therefrom including statistical analyses linking **data** from genetic materials with other study **data**.

“**Data**” refers to any and all study information, records, statistics, facts, figures, and numbers, including without limitation to, laboratory, examination, and questionnaire results, and **Genetic Analysis Data**, images (e.g., without limitation to computed tomography scans, MRI scans), or primary signal data (e.g., ECG, spirometry tracings, polysomnography, accelerometry) and associated records either obtained directly from MESA participants or obtained from third parties as authorized by the participants pursuant to the contracts with the NHLBI, as well as those provided to MESA by ancillary studies.

“**Resultant Data**” refers to **data** derived in whole or in part by **Recipient** from **Data** and/or **Materials** provided under this DMDA.

“**Materials**” refers to biological samples including without limitation to: urine, blood (or any part thereof), tissues, or extracted DNA from said biological samples pursuant to the contracts with the NHLBI, as well as biological samples provided to MESA by ancillary studies.

“**MESA Study Investigator**” is a research investigator who works with MESA either as an employee of the NHLBI or through a current and active contract or consulting agreement with the NHLBI or one of its contractors.

“**Research Project**” refers to the project described in the attached research application.



“**Recipient**” refers to the institution or other entity receiving access to MESA **Data** and/or **Materials** requested for the **Research Project** identified in section 3 below as described in the attached research application.

“**Recipient’s Principal Investigator (PI)**” refers to the **Research Project** director for the **Recipient**.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Materials. MESA and NHLBI agree to transfer to **Recipient** the **Materials** described below, including the types of samples, amount, and concentration per sample (when applicable), the number of individuals from whom samples are to be provided, and whether samples are nonrenewable or from a renewable resource (e.g., DNA from immortalized cell lines) for use by the **Recipient’s PI** to conduct the **Research Project** as summarized in section 3 below.

2. Data. MESA agrees to provide **Recipient** with **Data** described as follows:

MESA will provide **Recipient** with the name and contact information of **Study Investigators** and all other investigator(s) who generated such **Data**.

3. Research Project.

3.1 These **Materials** and **Data** will be used by **Recipient’s PI** solely for use in conducting the **Research Project**, as named and described in the attached research application (insert **Research Project** name below):

3.2 If any aspect of the **Research Project**, is to be performed by an entity other than the **Recipient** as permitted by section 4.2, such entity is to be named below:

Recipient agrees that it will not employ, contract with, or retain any person, directly or indirectly, who is listed in the federal government’s Excluded Parties List (EPL) System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://sam.gov/content/exclusions>). **Recipient** agrees to notify MESA within 30 days of such person’s debarment or disqualification under this DMDA.

3.3 This DMDA covers only the **Research Project** set forth in Section 3.1. **Recipient** must submit a separate DMDA for each **Research Project** for which **Data** and/or **Materials** are requested.



Representations. Recipient and Recipient's PI expressly certify that the contents of any statements made or reflected in this document are truthful and accurate.

RECIPIENT'S PI INITIALS: _____

4. Non-Transferability. This DMDA is not transferable.

4.1 **Recipient and Recipient's PI** agree that substantive changes made to the **Research Project**, and/or appointment by **Recipient** of another principal investigator and/or transfer of **Recipient's PI** to another institution or other entity to complete the **Research Project** will require execution of a separate DMDA. Except as provided in section 4.2 below, **Recipient** may not distribute **Data** or **Materials** to any other individual or entity, regardless of the intended use of such **Data** or **Materials**. Nothing in this section precludes **Recipient** from publishing results of the **Research Project** through the usual channels of scientific publication.

4.2 **Recipient and Recipient's PI** may transfer or cause to be transferred **Materials** to an institution or institutions or other entities not affiliated with **Recipient** but with which **Recipient** has either a fee-for-service or subcontract agreement or specific authorization from the NHLBI for performance of assays and/or genetic analyses for the **Research Project** as identified in section 3.2. A separate DMDA is not required if the derived **Data** are either returned to the **Recipient and Recipient's PI** or are deposited for **Recipient and Recipient's PI** in a publicly accessible database authorized by the NHLBI upon completion of the assays. No **Data** are to be provided to such institutions or other entities unless a separate DMDA has been approved by MESA and NHLBI.

5. Conduct of Research Project. Recipient's PI is responsible for conducting the **Research Project** and shall be responsible for assuring that any co-investigator(s) or contractor(s) comply with the terms of this DMDA.

6. Publication. Prompt publication of the results of the **Research Project** is encouraged. MESA and NHLBI request that the **Recipient's PI** provide to the authorized representative for the MESA Coordinating Center (named below) a copy of any abstract ten (10) days in advance of submission for publication and any manuscript or other disclosure document thirty (30) days in advance of submission for publication, in order to permit review and comment and ensure compliance with the confidentiality requirements of this DMDA.

7. Acknowledgments. Recipient and Recipient's PI agree to acknowledge the contribution of MESA staff in any and all oral and written presentations, disclosures, and publications resulting from any and all analyses of **Data** or **Materials**.

7.1 Collaborations. If a manuscript resulting from the **Research Project** has **Study Investigators** as co-authors, then the manuscript must be submitted for review by MESA.

7.1.a If the manuscript is approved by MESA, the **Recipient and Recipient's PI** agree to include the following language in an acknowledgment.

"The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis is supported by contracts 75N92020D00001, HHSN268201500003I, N01-HC-95159, 75N92020D00005, N01-HC-95160, 75N92020D00002, N01-HC-95161, 75N92020D00003, N01-HC-95162, 75N92020D00006, N01-HC-95163, 75N92020D00004, N01-HC-95164, 75N92020D00007, N01-HC-95165, N01-HC-95166, N01-HC-95167, N01-HC-95168

and N01-HC-95169 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and by grants UL1-TR-000040, UL1-TR-001079, and UL1-TR-001420 from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). The authors thank the other investigators, the staff, and the participants of the MESA study for their valuable contributions. A full list of participating MESA investigators and institutions can be found at <http://www.mesa-nhlbi.org>.”

“This manuscript has been reviewed by MESA for scientific content and consistency of **data** interpretation with previous MESA publications.”

7.1.b If the manuscript is not approved by MESA and the **Recipient and Recipient’s PI** wish to proceed to publish without inclusion of **Study Investigators** as co-authors, the **Recipient and Recipient’s PI** agree to include the following language in an acknowledgment.

“The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis is supported by contracts 75N92020D00001, HHSN268201500003I, N01-HC-95159, 75N92020D00005, N01-HC-95160, 75N92020D00002, N01-HC-95161, 75N92020D00003, N01-HC-95162, 75N92020D00006, N01-HC-95163, 75N92020D00004, N01-HC-95164, 75N92020D00007, N01-HC-95165, N01-HC-95166, N01-HC-95167, N01-HC-95168 and N01-HC-95169 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and by grants UL1-TR-000040, UL1-TR-001079, and UL1-TR-001420 from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). The authors thank the other investigators, the staff, and the participants of the MESA study for their valuable contributions. A full list of participating MESA investigators and institutions can be found at <http://www.mesa-nhlbi.org>.”

“This manuscript was not approved by MESA. The opinions and conclusions contained in this publication are solely those of the authors, and are not endorsed by MESA or the NHLBI and should not be assumed to reflect the opinions or conclusions of either.”

7.2 Other Studies. If the **Research Project** does not involve collaboration with **Study Investigators**, then the **Recipient and Recipient’s PI** agree to include the following language in an acknowledgment.

“The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis is supported by contracts 75N92020D00001, HHSN268201500003I, N01-HC-95159, 75N92020D00005, N01-HC-95160, 75N92020D00002, N01-HC-95161, 75N92020D00003, N01-HC-95162, 75N92020D00006, N01-HC-95163, 75N92020D00004, N01-HC-95164, 75N92020D00007, N01-HC-95165, N01-HC-95166, N01-HC-95167, N01-HC-95168 and N01-HC-95169 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and by grants UL1-TR-000040, UL1-TR-001079, and UL1-TR-001420 from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). The authors thank the other investigators, the staff, and the participants of the MESA study for their valuable contributions. A full list of participating MESA investigators and institutions can be found at <http://www.mesa-nhlbi.org>.”

“This manuscript was not prepared in collaboration with investigators of MESA and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or conclusions of MESA or the NHLBI.”



7.3 Ancillary Study Investigator Acknowledgments. If **Data** include **data** provided to MESA by ancillary study investigators, **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** also agree to acknowledge their contribution in any and all oral and written presentations, disclosures, and publications resulting from any and all analyses of such **Data**.

8. Non-Identification. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree that **Materials** and/or **Data** will not be used, either alone or in conjunction with any other information, in any effort to determine the individual identities of any of the participants from whom **Data** and/or **Materials** were obtained or derived.

9. Use Limited to Research Project. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree that **Data**, **Materials**, their progeny, or derivatives thereof will not be used in any experiments or procedures unless said experiments or procedures are disclosed and approved as part of the **Research Project**.

10. Use in Human Experimentation Prohibited. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree that **Materials**, their progeny, and derivatives thereof will not be used in experimentation or research involving of any kind with human participants.

11. Compliance with Participants' Informed Consent. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree that **Data** and/or **Materials**, their progeny, and derivatives thereof will not be used for any purpose contrary to a participant's applicable signed informed consent document(s). **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to consult with **Study Investigators** and ascertain, specifically and in detail, the terms and conditions of applicable MESA informed consent documents.

12. No Distribution; Confidentiality, and Avoidance of Waste. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to retain control over **Data**, **Materials** and their progeny, and derivatives thereof. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** further agree not to transfer **Data**, **Materials** and their progeny, and derivatives thereof, with or without charge, to any other entity or individual, except for **Data** and/or **Materials** as provided for in section 4.2 above. In addition to the provisions set forth in section 19 below, **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to keep **Data** confidential, encrypted (if stored in an electronic medium), and off of publicly available **Data** storage platforms. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to make reasonable efforts to avoid contamination or waste of **Materials**. Please refer to the NIH Best Practices for Controlled-Access Data Subject to the NIH Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy (https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/NIH_Best_Practices_for_Controlled-Access_Data_Subject_to_the_NIH_GDS_Policy.pdf).

RECIPIENT'S PI INITIALS: _____

13. Resultant Data to be Provided to MESA and NHLBI. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to provide MESA with a report every twelve (12) months during the term of this DMDA. The report shall include a description of the activities performed and **Resultant Data** obtained during the twelve (12) months before the reporting date. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree that MESA and NHLBI, in accordance with the NIH Data Sharing Policy (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/index.htm) and NHLBI Policy for Data Sharing from Clinical Trials and Epidemiologic Studies (<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/grants-and-training/policies-and-guidelines/nhlbi-policy-for-data-sharing-from-clinical-trials-and-epidemiological-studies>), may distribute all such **Resultant Data** through established NHLBI procedures to all institutions requesting access for their identified qualified scientific investigators to such **Resultant Data** and that submit to NHLBI a signed DMDA comparable to this DMDA. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** will provide all **Resultant Data** in the precise electronic format specified by NHLBI or MESA. If errors in family structure, especially paternity, are identified, **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to contact the Coordinating Center Authorized Representative (named below), at the time such errors are identified, to receive detailed NHLBI MESA DMDA, Version Date: 2022-10-18



instructions as to how to provide such information and to whom. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** further agree to refrain from any disclosure of such identified errors to anyone other than individual(s) specifically identified and authorized by MESA and NHLBI.

14. Costs/No Warranties. Cost for **Materials** distribution will be determined on a case by case basis. Costs are subject to change following written notification from MESA with the approval of NHLBI. NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ARE PROVIDED AS TO THE MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PURPOSE OF THE MATERIALS AND/OR DATA PROVIDED TO RECIPIENT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

15. Recipient's Responsibility for Handling Materials. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** acknowledge that **Materials** may carry viruses, latent viral genomes, and other infectious agents. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to treat **Materials** as if they were not free of contamination, and affirm that **Materials** will be handled by trained persons under laboratory conditions that afford adequate biohazard containment. By accepting **Materials**, **Recipient** assumes full responsibility for their safe and appropriate handling.

16. Non-Endorsement, Indemnification. **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree not to claim, infer, or imply United States Government endorsement of the **Research Project**, the entity, or personnel conducting the **Research Project**, or any resulting commercial product(s) except as described in section 7.

Recipient and **Recipient's PI** agree to release the United States Government, MESA, and all investigator(s) who generated **Data** and **Materials**, and the agents and employees of each of them from all liabilities, demands, damages, expenses, and losses arising out of **Recipient's** use for any purpose.

Except where prohibited by law (any applicable state statute(s) are provided below in Paragraph 16.1), **Recipient** agrees to defend and indemnify the United States Government, MESA, and all investigator(s) who generated **Data** and **Materials**, and the agents and employees of each of them for all liabilities, demands, damages, expenses, and losses arising out of **Recipient's** use for any purpose. If the United States government is a party to any litigations governed by this Paragraph 16, United States Federal law will govern.

16.1 Insert applicable state laws here:

17. Accuracy of Data. **Recipient** agrees that the United States Government and MESA are not responsible for the accuracy of **Data** or the provenance or integrity of **Materials** provided.

18. Recipient's Compliance with Recipient IRB's Requirements. **Recipient** agrees to use the **Data** and/or **Materials** only in conjunction with the **Research Project**, which has been reviewed by the **Recipient's** Institutional Review Board (IRB) or similar human subjects oversight body in accordance with Department of Health and Human Services regulations at 45 CFR Part 46. **Recipient** agrees to comply fully with all such conditions and with the participants' informed consent documents, and any additional conditions that may be imposed by MESA IRB(s). **Recipient** agrees to report promptly to MESA and NHLBI any unanticipated problems or proposed changes in the **Research Project**. **Recipient** also agrees to report to **Recipient's** IRB any unanticipated problems or changes in the **Research Project** that involve additional risks to participants or others. **Recipient** remains subject to applicable state and



local laws and regulations and institutional policies that provide additional protections for human subjects.

19. Recipient’s Responsibility to follow Data Security Best Practices. Recipient is aware of computer and Data security best practices and will follow them for receipt, storage and use of Data and Resultant Data. An example of best practice guidelines can be found in http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/gap/pdf/dbgap_2b_security_procedures.pdf.

20. Amendments. Amendments to this DMDA must be made in writing and signed by authorized representatives of all signatory Parties hereto.

21. Termination. This DMDA shall terminate at the earliest of: the completion of the Research Project; five (5) years after the effective date of this DMDA; abandonment of the Research Project; or violation by Recipient of any provisions of this DMDA not remedied within 30 days after the date of written notice by NHLBI and MESA of such violation, debarment or disqualification.

Upon termination of this DMDA:

Recipient agrees to destroy all copies of all Data received from MESA and consult with MESA and the NHLBI regarding the disposition of all remaining Materials. Recipient will verify that MESA data have been destroyed in a written or electronic communication to the MESA Coordinating Center.

22. Disqualification, Enforcement. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this DMDA may result in disqualification of Recipient and Recipient’s PI from receiving additional Data and/or Materials. The United States Government and/or MESA may have the right to initiate legal actions at law or in equity against the Recipient for violating or manifesting an intent to violate the confidentiality requirements of this DMDA, the limitations on the use of the Data or Materials provided, or both. Proceedings may be initiated against the violating party, or legal representatives, and assigns, for a restraining injunction, compensatory and punitive damages, mandamus, and/or any other proceeding at law or in equity, including obtaining the proceeds from any intellectual property or other rights that are derived in whole or in part from the breach of the confidentiality requirements or use limitations of this agreement. In addition, Recipient and Recipient’s PI acknowledge that a breach or manifesting an intent to breach the confidentiality requirements or use limitations of this DMDA may subject Recipient and Recipient’s PI to legal action on the part of MESA participants, their families, or both.

RECIPIENT’S PI INITIALS: _____

23. Prior Distribution Agreements. By execution of this DMDA, Recipient certifies to the best of its knowledge that it is in compliance with the terms and conditions of all its existing DMDAs with MESA and/or the NHLBI.

Required Signatures begin on the next page



SIGNATURE PAGE

RECIPIENT’S PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Read and Understood by the Recipient’s Principal Investigator:

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions laid out in this agreement and acknowledge that I am steward of the data and/or materials for the duration of this agreement and am responsible for my own actions and those that I supervise or that are working under my direction.

Name and Title of Recipient’s Principal Investigator

Mailing Address of Recipient’s Principal Investigator

Email Address of Recipient’s Principal Investigator

Telephone and Fax Number of Recipient’s Principal Investigator

Signature of Recipient’s Principal Investigator and Date

RECIPIENT’S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

_____ a [non-profit] OR [for-profit] corporation/
institution Name of Recipient (Corporation/Institution)

organized under the laws of (State/Country): _____

with a principal address at: _____

Name and Title of Recipient's Authorized Representative

Signature and Date of Recipient's Authorized Representative



COORDINATING CENTER FOR The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)

Name and Title of MESA Coordinating Center Authorized Representative

Signature and Date of MESA Coordinating Center Authorized Representative

NHLBI (for Materials only):

Name and Title of NHLBI MESA Representative

Signature and Date of NHLBI MESA Representative

This Distribution Agreement is entered into as of: _____ (effective date)

FOR REVIEW ONLY