

**Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute**  
**DATA SHARING POLICY**  
**July 2009**

*The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute is dedicated to advancing genetic and genomic science to the benefit of all. Rapid and open data sharing strategically supports this mission by enabling research and accelerating translation. However, such policies are only sustainable if scientific credit is generated for all parties involved, and the Institute will play its part in developing a global research environment which rewards data sharing.*

*The following principles form the basis for data sharing at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the Institute will not consider collaborations that do not adhere to this policy. Guidelines for implementing the policy are provided in the associated document, WTSI Data Sharing Guidelines, available at:  
[http://www.sanger.ac.uk/datasharing/docs/wtsi\\_datasharing\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.sanger.ac.uk/datasharing/docs/wtsi_datasharing_guidelines.pdf)*

#### **Access**

The Institute aims to provide rapid access to data sets of use to the research community and will place these in publicly accessible repositories when possible. The Institute will support data and interoperability standards to maximise access and ensure ease of integration with other global resources.

#### **Ethical Considerations**

Conducting genetic and genomic research carries responsibilities to protect confidentiality and the privacy of research participants. Access to certain data sets will therefore be carefully managed and granted in a transparent manner to all appropriately qualified researchers.

#### **Rights of Data Providers**

The Institute recognises the need for researchers to be appropriately credited for their scientific contribution and investment in data generation. It is therefore expected that all researchers both honour agreements in line with Fort Lauderdale's data sharing principles,<sup>1</sup> and appropriately acknowledge the contributions of others.

#### **Optimising Translation**

The Institute recognises that, in specific instances, the use of intellectual property protection and attendant potential delays to data sharing may be necessary to prevent inappropriately exclusive claims by others and to ensure health benefits occur.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sharing Data from Large-scale Biological Research Projects: A System of Tripartite Responsibility*, Report of a meeting organised by the Wellcome Trust and held on 14–15 January 2003 at Fort Lauderdale, USA.