

## Instructions for completing Data and Material Distribution Agreements (DMDA)

### 1. When to fill out a DMDA

If you are requesting data and/or materials from the ARIC study (i.e., for an ancillary study, or a manuscript), you will need to fill out a DMDA. Examples of data requested that will require a DMDA are data derived from genetic materials ([Genetic Analysis Data](#)), including statistical analyses linking data from genetic materials with other study data ([data](#)), laboratory, examination, and questionnaire results, images (e.g. computed tomography and MRI scans) and primary signal data (e.g. ECGs, spirometry tracings, polysomnography, or accelerometry) and associated records. [Materials](#) that require a DMDA are any type of bio-sample, such as urine, blood, and products thereof (e.g. immortalized lymphocytes and extracted DNA).

### 2. Where to find the ARIC DMDA

ARIC DMDA can be found on the ARIC study website here:

[https://www5.cscce.unc.edu/aric9/researchers/Obtain\\_Submit\\_Data](https://www5.cscce.unc.edu/aric9/researchers/Obtain_Submit_Data) , under the file name: [Data and Materials Distribution Agreement \(DMDA\)](#)

### 3. How to complete a DMDA

The Principal Investigator (PI) should download the DMDA from the ARIC website and complete the form.

For a DMDA to be valid, it ***must have*** the following sections complete:

- Section 1 “Materials”
- Section 2 “Data”
- Section 3 “Research Project”
- Recipient’s PI Initials below item 3.3, item 12 and item 22
- Required Signatures

After Sections 1-3 of the form are completed, the Principal Investigator (PI) must sign the agreement. A second signature must be obtained from the Authorized Institutional Representative, as the local institutional authority has to legally commit the institution to this agreement. A final set of signatures must be obtained depending on whether data and/or materials are being requested by the PI.

*For Data requests only (no NHLBI review needed):*

- 1) Once the proposed ancillary study or manuscript is approved, send the signed DMDA form to ARIC data ([ARICdata@unc.edu](mailto:ARICdata@unc.edu)) at the Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center (CSCC).
- 2) ARIC PI at the CSCC signs the DMDA, keeps the original, and sends a copy of the signed, fully executed DMDA back to the PI.
- 3) The PI should complete the [data request form](#) available on the ARIC website.
- 4) Upon completing the forms and obtaining the required signatures, the PI should submit an official data request by completing the ARIC [REDCap form](#). In REDCap, the PI will be prompted to upload their fully executed DMDA as well as their Data Request form.



*For Materials (and Data) that are being transferred from the ARIC Laboratories (NHLBI review needed):*

- 1) Once the proposed ancillary study or manuscript is approved, send the signed DMDA to the ARIC project officer at NHLBI (Dr. May Montasser, MS, PhD. [may.montasser@nih.gov](mailto:may.montasser@nih.gov)).
- 2) NHLBI will send the signed DMDA to the CSCC (ARICdata).
- 3) ARIC PI at the CSCC signs the DMDA, keeps the original copy and sends a copy of the signed, fully executed DMDA back to the PI.
- 4) The PI should complete the [data request form](#) available on the ARIC website.
- 5) Upon completing the forms and obtaining the required signatures, the PI should submit an official data request by completing the ARIC [REDCap form](#). In REDCap, the PI will be prompted to upload their fully executed DMDA as well as their Data Request form.

***Note: Faxed and/or scanned copies of the DMDA are acceptable.***

*If the DMDA relates to an ancillary study (AS), the AS # should be printed in the upper right corner of the DMDA to assist the CSCC with tracking the agreement. Once this process is complete, the CSCC will note on the AS Table that the agreements are complete and send an email to the laboratories with permission to distribute materials and allow data to be distributed.*

**Addresses to note:**

May E. Montasser, MS, PhD (ARIC Project Officer) [may.montasser@nih.gov](mailto:may.montasser@nih.gov)  
Program Director, Epidemiology Branch  
Division of Cardiovascular Sciences (DCVS)  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)  
National Institutes of Health  
6705 Rockledge Drive, Room 302  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7936  
Tel: 301-827-6504

Kim Ring (Project Manager) [kim\\_ring@unc.edu](mailto:kim_ring@unc.edu)  
Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center, University of North Carolina  
Department of Biostatistics  
Carolina Square  
123 W. Franklin Street, Suite 450  
Mail Station 8030  
Chapel Hill, NC  
27516  
Phone: (919) 962-3096 Fax: (919) 962-3265

**If you have any questions related to the ARIC DMDA, please contact: [aricdata@unc.edu](mailto:aricdata@unc.edu)**

**Appendix A**  
**ATHEROSCLEROSIS RISK IN COMMUNITIES STUDY**  
**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 **ATHEROSCLEROSIS RISK IN COMMUNITIES study (ARIC)** is described at <https://sites.csc.unc.edu/aric/>.

To protect the confidentiality and privacy of ARIC 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 ARIC or other National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) resources, and may leave violators subject to legal action on the part of ARIC 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 ARIC, on behalf of ARIC and under the direction of the ARIC 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 ARIC participants or obtained from third parties as authorized by the participants pursuant to the contracts with the NHLBI, as well as those provided to ARIC 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 ARIC by ancillary studies.

“**ARIC Study Investigator**” is a research investigator who works with ARIC 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 the ARIC **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.** ARIC 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.** ARIC agrees to provide **Recipient** with **Data** described as follows:

ARIC 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 ARIC 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 ARIC 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. ARIC and NHLBI request that the **Recipient's PI** provide to the authorized representative for the ARIC 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 ARIC 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 ARIC.

**7.1.a** If the manuscript is approved by ARIC, the **Recipient and Recipient's PI** agree to include the acknowledgment found on the ARIC Study website at <https://sites.csc.unc.edu/aric/pubs-policies-and-forms-pg> and the following statement.

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



**7.1.b** If the manuscript is not approved by ARIC 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 acknowledgment found on the ARIC Study website at <https://sites.csc.unc.edu/aric/pubs-policies-and-forms-pg> and the following statement.

“This manuscript was not approved by the ARIC Study. The opinions and conclusions contained in this publication are solely those of the authors, and are not endorsed by the ARIC Study 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 acknowledgment found on the ARIC Study website at <https://sites.csc.unc.edu/aric/pubs-policies-and-forms-pg> and the following statement.

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

**7.3 Ancillary Study Investigator Acknowledgments.** If **Data** include **data** provided to ARIC 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**. Please visit the ARIC website for relevant acknowledgements ([Publications Policies and Forms](#)).

**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 ARIC 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](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 ARIC and NHLBI.** **Recipient** and **Recipient's PI** agree to provide ARIC 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 ARIC and NHLBI, in accordance with the NIH Data Sharing Policy ([https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data\\_sharing/index.htm](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 ARIC. 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 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 ARIC 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 ARIC 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 hold the United States Government, ARIC, and all investigator(s) who generated **Data** and **Materials**, and the agents and employees of each of them harmless and release them from all liabilities, demands, damages, expenses, and losses arising out of Recipient's or Recipient's PI's gross negligence.

**17. Accuracy of Data. Recipient** agrees that the United States Government and ARIC 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** have 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 ARIC IRB(s). **Recipient** agrees to report promptly to ARIC 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](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 ARIC of such violation, debarment or disqualification.

Upon termination of this DMDA:

**Recipient** agrees to destroy all copies of all **Data** received from ARIC and consult with ARIC and the NHLBI regarding the disposition of all remaining **Materials. Recipient** will verify that the ARIC **data** have been destroyed in a written or electronic communication to the ARIC 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 ARIC 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 ARIC participants, their families, or both.

**RECIPIENT'S PI INITIALS:** \_\_\_\_\_





National Heart, Lung,  
and Blood Institute

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**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 ARIC and/or the NHLBI.

**Required Signatures begin on the next page**

**Required for receipt of data only or data and materials****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)*

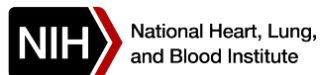
*organized under the laws of (State/Country):*

*with a principal address at:*

*Name and Title of Recipient's Authorized Representative*

---

*Signature and Date of Recipient's Authorized Representative*



**Required for receipt of data only or data and materials**

**COORDINATING CENTER FOR THE ATHEROSCLEROSIS RISK IN COMMUNITIES (ARIC) STUDY**

*Name and Title of ARIC Coordinating Center Authorized Representative*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature and Date of ARIC Coordinating Center Authorized Representative*

**Required for receipt of data and materials**

**NHLBI (for Materials only):**

*Name and Title of NHLBI ARIC Representative*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature and Date of NHLBI ARIC Representative*

**This Distribution Agreement is entered into as of: \_\_\_\_\_ (effective date)**