April 12, 2016

**MESA Deidentified Dataset Distribution Policy Statement**

MESA Coordinating Center distributes only deidentified datasets (with HIPAA defined identifiers removed) to Recipient Investigators with approved manuscripts proposals in compliance with MESA and NHLBI/NIH data privacy and sharing standard practices and policy.

Recipient Investigators are:

1. required to safeguard data provided to them and ensure deletion/destruction of the data upon completion of their project
2. restricted from attempting to identify participants using the data provided to them
3. restricted from presenting data in any manner which could identify participants
4. restricted from further distribution of the data.

Additionally, access to MESA datasets require completion of a Data Distribution Agreement (MESA Data and Materials Distribution Agreement if the Investigator is not at a MESA affiliated Institution) and review and approval of a detailed proposal by MESA Publications and Steering Committees for soundness in science, methodology, and adherence to MESA policy. Manuscript pen drafts (and presentation abstracts) are also reviewed by these same committees.

Investigators who need an exception to any aspect of this policy should contact Craig Johnson (wcraigj@uw.edu) for instructions concerning the petitioning process.

\[Signature\]

W. Craig Johnson
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