

# Request for Consent to Participate in Research

## **TITLE OF STUDY:**

Collecting 'real-life' success stories and cautionary tales for data management engagement and education

## **PURPOSE:**

You are being asked to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to collect stories that illustrate concepts and best practices for scientific data management. From these stories, we will prepare a collection of narratives that can be woven into the data management education and outreach products created by DataONE (Data Observation Network for Earth). DataONE ([www.dataone.org](http://www.dataone.org)) is funded by the National Science Foundation and seeks to help earth and environmental science researchers find, utilize and share existing data that is relevant to their research. DataONE is committed to engaging a broad and diverse community of users, and the goal of this project is to use storytelling to help engage members of various stakeholder communities in sound data practices. As part of our effort to facilitate dialog about data management and sharing, we plan to publish anonymized stories collected through this research project as blog posts on the DataONE website and use them as examples in our educational materials.

## **PROCEDURES:**

If you decide to participate, we will provide you with a list of questions that we will use to elicit your stories during your focus group or interview. You will have a chance to review the questions and this consent form before your interview is scheduled. When you arrive for your interview or focus group meeting, we will ask you to read and sign this form, which indicates your consent to participate in the study. We will again give you a copy of the questions and allow you time to read through them again before the interview or focus group begins. When we are ready to begin the focus group or interview, you will be informed that the audio recording device will be started. As we go through the questions, we will ask you to tell your stories related to aspects of data management and sharing and use follow-up questions to help you describe relevant details.

The focus group or interview conversation will take approximately 1 hour, and will be audio-recorded for later transcription. We expect to hold a small number of in-person focus groups including as many as 15 people, and approximately 20 one-on-one interviews either in person or via telephone or Skype.

## **RISKS:**

Although we are not attempting to collect stories of a highly personal nature, you will be discussing stories that may be personal, and you may experience some anxiety, embarrassment, or discomfort. We will provide you with the interview or focus group questions in advance of your meeting so that you can plan for what you want to talk about during our meeting.

You may be discussing stories that could impact your job, employability, or professional reputation. We will safeguard your confidentiality by never using your name during the interview and omitting or modifying any personally-identifying information you provide. Audio recordings will be temporarily stored on a secure server and permanently deleted once transcriptions have been created.

You may have been asked to participate in this study by one of your colleagues or friends, and you may have felt obligated to participate because of your professional relationship or friendship. Your choice about whether or not to participate is always voluntary and will be known only by the researchers conducting the interviews (Jessica Bragg and Stacy Rebich Hespanha).

## **BENEFITS:**

The narratives related to data management and sharing that are collected through the project will be used by DataONE to enrich the education products created by DataONE and as blog posts that help to raise awareness of the issues revealed through the stories. Collection and distribution of these stories will benefit efforts to help researchers learn about data management practices and to envision the types of practices that are encouraged by the data management and sharing community. They will also benefit the scientific research community more generally by helping to encourage data-related practices that help to more efficiently advance scientific discovery.

There is no direct benefit to you anticipated from your participation in this study.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:**

Information you provide through participation in this research is confidential. Your name will not appear in any transcribed document. In the case that you provide personally-identifying information during an interview or focus group, this information will be modified or deleted to protect your confidentiality. In addition, audio recordings will be permanently destroyed once transcription is complete.

We will be posting anonymized versions of the data management and sharing stories that you share with us on the DataONE blog. However, we recognize that there may be cases in which you would like to have your identity (i.e., name and affiliation) associated with one or more of your stories. If you check the box below, we will contact you one (1) week before your story is to be posted with a link to a password-protected version of the anonymized version of your story. If, after reading the story, you would like to have your name and affiliation included, you will have one week to contact us with this request. If we do not hear from you within one week, we will post the anonymized version of your story on our website. If you provide us with more than one story, we will send you a separate notification for each story you contribute.

If you indicate below that you would like us to contact you before we post your story(ies) with an opportunity to view your story(ies) and choose whether or not to be credited for contributing, the ID code assigned to your story will be associated with your identity in a separate document. Once you contact us with your decision regarding attribution or anonymity, we will permanently delete the association between your identity and the ID code. We will also permanently delete the association between your identity and the ID code after 1 week if we receive no response from you.

When stories are collected in a focus group setting, we will emphasize to all members of the focus group that information shared during the discussion is confidential. Researchers will keep all information confidential, but we cannot guarantee that everyone in a focus group will keep all information confidential.

Absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, since research documents are not protected from subpoena. However, once audio recordings have been transcribed and permanently deleted and associations between ID codes and identities have been permanently deleted, the data we collect will not be linked to your identity in any way.

Please check here if you would like us to contact you before we post your story(ies) to inquire about whether or not you would like to have your name and affiliation included.

**RIGHT TO REFUSE OR WITHDRAW:**

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to decline to answer any specific questions or refuse to follow any specific instructions without penalty. You may refuse to participate, or change your mind about participating in the study after the conversations have started.

**QUESTIONS:**

If you have any questions or concerns about this research project or if you think you may have been injured as a result of your participation, please contact Dr. Stacy Rebich Hespanha at [hespanha@nceas.ucsb.edu](mailto:hespanha@nceas.ucsb.edu) or at (805) 637-3229.

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, please contact the Human Subjects Committee at (805) 893-3807 or [hsc@research.ucsb.edu](mailto:hsc@research.ucsb.edu). Or write to the University of California, Human Subjects Committee, Office of Research, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2050

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY. YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW WILL INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE AS A RESEARCH SUBJECT IN THE STUDY DESCRIBED ABOVE. YOU WILL BE GIVEN A SIGNED AND DATED COPY OF THIS FORM TO KEEP.

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Signature of Participant or Legal Representative

Date

Time