

Survey 11: Data Ownership

In a poster presentation at a national meeting, a junior level scientist reports cultivation of a tumor cell line never before established in vitro. Growth in vitro of this tumor and for other previously non-cultivable tumors is made possible using a culture medium that she has invented. The composition and preparation of the medium requires specialty chemicals from foreign distributors as well as custom preparation of animal tissue extracts that are added to the medium. Neither her poster nor her published abstract disclose the composition of her new culture medium and she refuses all requests to reveal its contents. She has a small lab (1 technician and a part time student) and is struggling to win federal grant support and tenure. Indicate on the following scale the degree to which each of the following reasons justifies her not sharing data.

1	2	3	4	5
Not Justifiable	Rarely Justifiable	Sometimes Justifiable	Generally Justifiable	Always Justifiable

1. Patent Protection:

Release of the contents of the medium will compromise her ability to protect her invention under intellectual property law. _____

2. First to Report:

She wants to be the *first to report* her exciting finding and release of the medium's contents will compromise her chances of doing so. _____

3. Career Advancement:

She wants to establish priority through publication in the peer reviewed to help her professional *advancement*. _____

4. Fair Competition:

She fears that availability of the medium will enable larger, established labs to gain a decisive advantage in the field: she views her actions as fair *competition*. _____

5. Expense and Time:

The transfer of this technology would be *too expensive and time consuming* to be effective. _____

Please use the scale below to rank the level of your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

The data that you generate in a research project are owned by

- 6. you. _____
- 7. PI. _____
- 8. institution. _____
- 9. funding agency or organization. _____

The responsibility for deciding what and when to publish or share with others is held by

- 10. you. _____
- 11. PI. _____
- 12. institution. _____
- 13. funding agency or organization. _____

You have received the advice that sharing of data or reagents constitutes good science.

Sharing of your data or reagents, even before publication is a good idea for

- 14. you. _____
- 15. science. _____

You have received the advice that sharing of data or reagents is a bad idea. Sharing of your data or reagents, even before publication is a bad idea for

- 16. you. _____
- 17. science. _____

Consider your current primary research project. Using the following scale, answer the following questions to indicate your willingness to share with someone you do not know from another university.

1	2	3	4	5
Never	Only after the paper is accepted for publication	Only after the paper is submitted for publication	Only after it is possible to begin writing the paper	At any time

- 20. Share your raw data _____
- 21. Share your methods _____
- 22. Share your reagents _____
- 23. Share your relatively rare (or expensive) reagents _____