Research Dilemmas | Ethical Considerations: Recommending and defending right and wrong conduct | Etiquette Considerations: Expectations for accepted behaviors
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I am currently collaborating on a research team, and I have a spin-off idea. What are my obligations to include the original study team in my spin-off work? | • Research data are considered an asset of the principal investigator’s institution.¹ | • Consider using a written collaboration agreement between authors to clarify access to original data and expectations around future use and publication.

When should I add or remove a collaborator from the research team? | • Withholding evidence and/or findings from the team that germinate during the research process is akin to interference and could be considered misconduct.¹ | • For each collaborator, ask: Would I have had this new idea without this team member? If not, consider inviting him/her to collaborate on the spin-off study.

Recommended Practices: Early in the collaboration, explicitly discuss with the team:

1) Author requirements
2) How extensions of the study will be handled
3) A written collaboration agreement for authors

For a list of institutional Web sites or publications relating to ethical conduct, please see Supplemental Digital Appendix 1 at http://links.lww.com/ACADMED/A395.

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References:

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