Frequently Asked Questions about Open Science

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Please email any additional questions to grants@abta.org.

What is open science?
Open science is the idea that scientific knowledge of all kinds should be freely and openly shared as early as is practical in the discovery process. Open science is characterized by the notion that some or all aspects of the research and discovery lifecycle should be made available with little or no restrictions to the scientific community.

What is ABTA's approach to open science?
The ABTA believes in increasing the availability of scholarly research outputs as well as the raw data and protocols used to generate these research outputs. Increasing the availability of scholarly research outputs is typically referred to as "open access" or "public access" and focuses on the rapid online availability of peer-reviewed research results, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print the full text of these articles. Increasing the availability of raw data and protocols, refers to "open data" and promotes the accessibility and reuse of the

protocols and raw data generated during a project. Open data applies to datasets, statistics, transcripts, survey results, and the metadata associated with these objects. The data is, in essence, the factual information that is necessary to replicate and verify research results.

What are the ABTA's requirements and recommendations regarding open science for ABTA grants?

The ABTA's policy encourages the immediate free dissemination of journal articles. However, in recognizing the realities of the current publishing system which allows publishers to embargo access for a period of time, the ABTA requires that all journal articles resulting from ABTA funding should be made freely available in PubMed Central within 12 months of publication. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure this occurs.

The ABTA is committed to transparency and reproducibility of research. While sharing of data and protocols is not required for ABTA grantees, it is strongly encouraged. The ABTA has a [list of acceptable repositories for data and protocols](#). To facilitate data sharing, the ABTA now allows grantees to use their ABTA funds for expenses related to data sharing, including article processing charges, data storage fees, and staff salary for curating and documenting data. Applicants and grantees who elect to use their ABTA funds for this purpose are required to submit a [Data Management and Sharing Plan](#).

My paper is based on research only partially funded by ABTA. Is the paper still bound by the ABTA's requirement for public access?

Yes, the policy applies to any journal article manuscript that arises from any amount of direct funding from the ABTA. Please refer to section 9.3 of the [Policies and Procedures for Research Grants and Fellowships](#).

Is a Data Management and Sharing Plan required as part of my ABTA grant application?

If you are including the costs of data sharing in the budget for your ABTA grant, you must include a [Data Management and Sharing Plan](#) in your application. Please note that it is up to the applicant to make sure that the Data Sharing Plan has been included in the Attachments section, a missing Data Sharing Plan will not get flagged during the Validation Step before submitting the application.

If the Budget for your ABTA grant application does not include costs associated with data sharing, the Data Management and Sharing Plan is encouraged, but not required.

Will my Data Management and Sharing plan affect the score of my application?

No. Reviewers are asked not to score on the Data Sharing Plan, it is primarily for internal proposal and grant management purposes only. However, reviewers will be allowed to view the Data Sharing Plans, if they wish, and can provide constructive feedback to the applicants in their overall comments.

I did not include data sharing costs in my grant budget, but now that my grant has been awarded, I would like to include them. What do I need to do?

You will need to complete a Budget Change Request as well as a Data Management and Sharing Plan. The forms can be found in the Deliverables for your ABTA Grant in

proposalCENTRAL. You can also contact grants@abta.org to get these set up in your grant account.

Where can I deposit my data?
The ABTA maintains a list of ABTA approved repositories for data and protocols. If your preferred repository is not on this list, and it meets the criteria outlined at the top of the list, you may contact grants@abta.org to have it considered for approval. Grantees are encouraged to use subject-focused repositories. If none of the repositories on this list are appropriate for your data, you can search the Registry of Research Data Repositories for an appropriate subject-focused repository. Please note that all repositories on this list may not meet ABTA criteria (outlined in the list of approved repositories).

Once I share my research data, who owns it?
It is generally held that factual data cannot be copyrighted. Anyone can access the data from the repository in which you deposit it, use the data, and build upon it, provided they provide appropriate attribution.

What about the possibility of scientific misuse or unsophisticated analysis of the research data?
Data sharing can actually decrease the potential for data miscalculation, misinterpretation, manipulation, and fraud by opening raw results up to the broader community. Any conclusions that a scientist draws from the data can be checked, questioned, and countered by the broader community.

What if I need to change repositories or add repositories to my data plan? Is it possible to modify my Data Management and Sharing Plan?
Yes, you can submit a new data sharing plan in the Deliverables section of your award in proposalCENTRAL. Contact grants@abta.org for assistance.

What happens if I fail to comply with the ABTA's requirements regarding open science?
ABTA will spot check for compliance for public access of publications, therefore, you may be asked to demonstrate your compliance. Grantees (and their institutions) found not in compliance with ABTA policies will be considered not in good standing and are therefore ineligible for future ABTA funding until they are in compliance with all policies.