

EDIC Policy for Collaborations

The DCCT/EDIC research group welcomes scientific collaboration with investigators in the field of diabetic complications. Our part in such collaborations is often to provide blood and/or urine specimens, as well as clinical and biochemical data for joint analyses.

We wish to make clear our policy in providing specimens for joint projects. All the specific measurements which will be made on DCCT/EDIC samples must be designated and agreed on in advance. No additional measurements of any analyte in DCCT/EDIC specimens can subsequently be performed on left-over sample volume without the prior knowledge and concurrence of the DCCT/EDIC research group.

The reason for this policy is not to inhibit scientific advancement or entrepreneurship. Quite the contrary, we would expect in most instances to agree to additional measurements. Our reasons for requiring that a formal request be made before undertaking any new, not previously agreed on measurements, are 3 fold.

- 1.) First, the DCCT/EDIC research wishes to be an active intellectual partner in any collaboration, rather than simply a passive useful source of samples and phenotypic data.
- 2.) Sample volumes that remain after completing the original planned analyses might be better returned to the DCCT/EDIC repository and stored for other potential future use, than for what a current collaborator wishes to measure ad hoc.
- 3.) Most important, we need to avoid the situation in which 2 different laboratories, unknownst to us, are measuring the same analyte on identical specimens. This opens up a Pandora's box of possible conflicting results and interpretations, conflicts of priority and authorship, possible IRB issues with uses for which participants had not given consent or might not if asked after the fact, and a loss of control over the study and its directions.

We intend to express this policy clearly and unequivocally to all future collaborators. We trust that all of our present collaborators will also strictly hew to this policy from now on.

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Chairman of DCCT/EDIC Study