

CAP Policy and Procedure for Similar or Overlapping Data Use proposals.

Background

- Current data consists of de-identified images, derived data (segmentation/contour files) and associated clinical information in text format, from a variety of Contributing Studies.
- Data from each of these studies is owned by the respective Contributing Study.
- Potential users must submit an application to use data stored in CAP, with a brief research proposal detailing the purpose for which they need to use the data, the period for which data is required, and provisions for secure handling of the data.
- Data Use Applications are reviewed by the CAP Steering Committee in order to verify that they comply with the goals and standard operating procedures of CAP.
- After approval by CAP, Data Use Applications are reviewed by each of the Contributing Studies from which data is being requested.
- Upon Contributing Study approval, a Data Use Agreement between the User and the Contributing Study is completed and signed. The User must adhere to the terms of this agreement.
- CAP, while not a party to the Contributor-User Data Use Agreement, will keep a record of the same for each User and Contributor, and will make data available via the CAP database mechanisms for the period of the agreement.

Potential Issues Arising from Overlap in Data Use Proposals:

1. A User may submit an application with goals and/or methods that overlap those of an existing User's project.
2. A User may submit an application with goals and/or methods that overlap those of the current CAP NIH grant which seeks to establish the resource and demonstrate its utility (e.g. developing statistical analysis of regional heart shape and wall motion characteristics)
3. As part of a Data Use Proposal, a PhD student may use the data to perform "original research" for his/her thesis, but the data are also freely available to the entire community, so it is possible that other researchers may use the same data to answer similar or the same question(s).

CAP Policy:

- CAP's primary function is to act as a secure repository of the data, and to provide mechanisms for data sharing, subject to approvals from the respective Contributing Studies.
- CAP will not reject or restrict proposals due to potential overlap with existing proposals, as the primary aim of CAP is to facilitate data sharing and progress the field by fostering collaborative research. It will not place restrictions on data access solely due to priority, and should not be seen to be favoring one application over another.
- Restricting proposals due to overlap with existing research in the CAP may pose a conflict of interest with CAP itself, since CAP researchers have a number of scientific studies already underway which utilize the data. CAP therefore will not impose restrictions on data use policies which may overlap the goals and current work of CAP researchers.
- An up-to-date list of approved proposals which are currently in progress (via the CAP

website www.cardiacatlas.org) will be maintained to keep the community aware of current projects. This will include the title of the proposal, a short description of the main goals, the investigators involved.

- CAP should make clear to potential Users that there is a potential for overlap of research goals between projects because the data has to be made equally available to all who accept the terms that the Contributing Studies specified in the Data Use Agreements.
- Users should identify potential problems with overlap, such as duplicate research performed by PhD projects, and may liaise with existing project investigators to avoid duplication of efforts.