ACR Policy and procedures regarding ownership of data and other work product generated by the ACR, its committees, subcommittees, and task forces.

Committees, subcommittees, task forces, and other work groups of the American College of Rheumatology and Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals frequently develop and conduct surveys and various other types of research and create educational products, position papers, and other materials. Described below are policy specifying ownership of the data and other work product generated from these activities, and procedures for requesting use of these data and other work products. Below, the word “committee” throughout refers to ACR or ARP standing committees, subcommittees, and task forces or other ad hoc work groups.

The data and other results generated from work done by a committee* of the ACR or ARP are the property of the ACR, and not of the committee members as a group or as individuals. This policy pertains as well to other work products of the committee (e.g., a novel method generated by the committee, a patient education document, a position paper, etc.). If a current or former member of a committee wishes to reuse data or other work product generated by a committee, the individual must first request permission to use it. The request must be sent in writing to the ACR Executive Committee in the form of a letter of intent. The letter of intent should not exceed 1 page and should include the following information: 1) brief description of the project, 2) source of the data, 3) specific venue (ACR or non-ACR) desired for publication/dissemination (journal or any other print or online product/publication), 4) the proposed type of document to be published (evidence-based research article, review, commentary, images or any other), and 5) the projected timeline for completion of the project, preparation of the manuscript (or other document as appropriate), and submission of the material for publication.

All members of ACR committees will, upon becoming a member of the committee, sign an agreement confirming their understanding that any work generated in the course of the committee’s work is owned by the ACR and not by the committee or its individual members. ACR governance staff, in conjunction with the staff member who works with the given committee, will be responsible for assuring that each member has signed the agreement and for retaining the agreements.

Approved by ACR Board of Directors: August 2013
AGREEMENT

It is the policy of the American College of Rheumatology ("ACR") and the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals ("ARP") division of the ACR, that the work product, including data and other results generated by a committee, subcommittee, task force or other work group (hereinafter referred to as "Committee") established by the ACR or the ARP are the property of the ACR and not of the Committee members, as a group or as individuals. It is also the policy of the ACR and the ARP that all members of ACR and ARP Committees will, upon becoming a member of a Committee, sign an agreement confirming their understanding that any work product generated by the Committee or they as Committee members is owned by the ACR.

To that end, the undersigned, in consideration of the undersigned’s appointment to and participation in (name of committee, subcommittee, task force, etc.) agrees that all work product which is created by or contributed by the undersigned in connection with or arising from his/her participation on the Committee shall be a “work made for hire” under the federal copyright laws and owned by ACR. Alternatively, if the work shall be deemed not to be a “work made for hire” the undersigned hereby assigns to ACR all of his/her right, title and interest, including copyright rights, in the work that he/she created or to which he/she contributed.

Dated this _____ day of _________, 202_