

Policy Framework for Research Data Management (RDM)

Max-Delbrück-Centrum für Molekulare Medizin in der
Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

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Preamble

The Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC) and other Health Centers of the Helmholtz Gemeinschaft recognize the fundamental importance of **research data** and its management in maintaining research excellence and scientific integrity, and are committed to pursuing the highest standards of research practice. Increased developments in computational advances, internationalization and data protection regulations present significant new opportunities and challenges in this regard.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework that defines the responsibilities of the MDC-management and its researchers, and to provide guidance for the proper management of research data throughout its full life cycle. This includes promoting data sharing and re-use to the widest extent feasible, in order to maximize research transparency, quality and impact.

The MDC is committed to a goal of making data created as part of the research process compliant with the FAIR principles [1]. Data should be: **F**indable, **A**ccessible, **I**nteroperable and **R**eusable. Implementation of this policy also aims to ensure conformity with pertinent legal obligations, ethical responsibilities and the rules of funding bodies, including the:

- Helmholtz Association position paper [2] and guidelines [3] on research data management research software
- Guidelines of the German Research Foundation for handling research data [4] and good scientific practice [5]
- Federal Data Protection Act [6]
- Berlin Data Protection Act [7]
- EU Open Science Policy [8]
- EU General Data Protection Regulation [9]

1. Jurisdiction

This policy was developed based on consensus discussion among working group members from the Helmholtz Health Centers, and was approved by the MDC board of directorates on 01.03.2021. It applies to all researchers active at the MDC. In cases when research is funded by a third party, any agreements made with that party concerning intellectual property rights, access rights and the storage of research data take precedence over this policy.

2. Intellectual property rights

Intellectual property rights and ownership determine the basic conditions for use and sharing of research data. The MDC technology transfer office serves as the first point of contact regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) questions about research data/results and initiates suitable protection measures where appropriate.