**Applying for access to the PATH Through Life Dataset**

**Background**

The PATH Through Life Project has been funded by an NHMRC program grant, NHMRC project grants and other competitive grants won by the Chief Investigators. It forms the basis of their personal research programs and NHMRC fellowship applications. The specific research objectives for each wave of data collection were developed by the chief investigators and form the basis of ongoing research at the Centre for Mental Health Research. Hence every variable and outcome measure in the study has been chosen by a researcher for a specific purpose.

The PATH investigators welcome genuine collaboration that complements the aims of the PATH study and optimises the use of the data.

PATH is not a publicly available dataset and it is not possible to gain access to the data without developing a genuine, scientifically based collaboration with a PATH investigator.

**The PATH Governance Committee**

The PATH Governance Committee (PGC) referred to below is composed of the Chief Investigators (CI) on the current NHMRC funding grant. The members of the PGC (Wave 4) are:

Professor Kaarin Anstey ([Kaarin.anstey@anu.edu.au](mailto:Kaarin.anstey@anu.edu.au)) (lead investigator)

Professor Helen Christensen ([Helen.christensen@anu.edu.au](mailto:Helen.christensen@anu.edu.au))

Professor Simon Easteal ([simon.easteal@anu.edu.au](mailto:simon.easteal@anu.edu.au))

Professor Andrew Mackinnon ([Andrew.Mackinnon@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Andrew.Mackinnon@unimelb.edu.au))

Associate Professor Peter Butterworth ([peter.butterworth@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.butterworth@anu.edu.au))

Dr Nicolas Cherbuin ([nicolas.cherbuin@anu.edu.au](mailto:nicolas.cherbuin@anu.edu.au))

Researchers external to the ANU will be expected to enter into a data sharing contract prior to gaining access to the PATH data. Researchers within the ANU but external to CMHR will need to enter into a MOU. All researchers external to CMHR will be expected to pay a fee for access to the data. This will be $1600 for each year of use. See Appendix A for details of what this fee covers.

Step to gain access to PATH data:

1. Prior to applying for permission to access the PATH data you need a PATH CI who is willing to collaborate with you on your research.
2. Appendix B provides a list of the CIs and their areas of interest. You may either contact one or more of these directly or contact Kaarin Anstey (kaatrin.anstey@anu.edu.au) if unsure who to approach.
3. Once you have a collaborating CI, please complete the PATH Proposal Form (Appendix C), in consultation with the CI concerned.
4. Email this proposal to Trina Merrell (trina.merrell@anu.edu.au) who will circulate it to the PGC for comment. In certain cases the proposal may be sent to other PATH advisors who have an interest in or expertise in a specific area. (See Appendix B). For proposals where data of interest are jointly owned (Appendix B) the proposal will be forwarded to the relevant researcher for approval. The PGC (and advisors as appropriate) are asked to provide comments within two weeks of submission of the proposal. A CI has the right to collaborate in this research if he or she wishes.
5. Your proposal will be allocated an ID number. *This number should be quoted in any correspondence relating to your proposal and subsequent papers that arise from it.*
6. If your proposal is successful, ***please read “PATH data use regulations.doc” (Appendix D).*** This document covers issues of confidentiality, data access, ethics approval, authorship and acknowledgements.
7. If you wish to change your proposal you will need to discuss this with your collaborating CI who will send a variation to Trina who will circulate it to the PGC, and others as appropriate (see point 4) for approval.
8. If you work externally to the ANU or CMHR you will be required to sign a data sharing contract as discussed above and ensure that your proposed analysis of PATH data is approved by your institution’s HRECS.
9. If you work at the ANU but are external to CMHR you will be required to sign an MOU.

CMHR will provide the following:

PATH datasets containing PATH data that has been approved for use

Access to a range of existing supporting documentation including description of the project, syntax files, variable lists…. This will be accessible from the PATH website

Support from the Data Manager (contact Kaarin Anstey to find out who is handling this) in accessing the above and understanding the data if necessary.

CMHR will not provide the following:

Staff to undertake further analysis of the data

Staff to undertake further development of the data to prepare it for use for collaborators.

Training in any statistical, neuroimaging or genetics methods required to understand or use the data. It is expected that collaborators have the required expertise to work on specific aspects of the data, including track record in the specific area.

Publication costs:

1. PATH has no funding for publication costs.
2. It is the responsibility of the lead author to determine how publication costs will be paid prior to submitting to an open access journal or any other journal that incurs publication costs.

Draft papers arising from Proposal

1. Please refer to *“PATH data use regulations.doc”*(Appendix D) for further information on collaboration and acknowledgements.
2. Draft papers should be emailed to the Data Manager, making reference to the ***ID number*** assigned to the proposal on which your paper is based. The paper will then be circulated to the PGC (and advisors as appropriate) who will be given two weeks to comments. The role of the PGC (and advisors) in this process is to:
   1. Ensure that the author had stayed within the boundaries of their proposal.
   2. Monitor the quality of PATH publications and check consistency in reporting of methods.
   3. Determine whether the paper contradicts, relates to or builds on other PATH papers and if this needs to be referred to in the paper.
   4. Ensure appropriate reference has been made to previous PATH papers.
   5. Correct any factual inaccuracies.

Any other recommendations from committee members to authors can be seen as suggestions only.

1. A revised NHMRC policy for the dissemination of research findings came into effect on 1 July 2012. This policy “requires that any publications arising from an NHMRC supported research project must be deposited into an open access institutional repository within a twelve month period from the date of publication. Please see “Dissemination of research findings – a guide to complying with the NHMRC mandate for ANU researchers” (Appendix F).
2. Please inform the Trina Merrell of the following:
   1. Date of submission to Journal
   2. Date of acceptance (or rejection, re-submission)
   3. If accepted, please indicate what journal it will be published in and forward a copy of the “In press” article.
   4. When published and forward a pdf of the final article

**NOTE: Appendix E is a CHECKLIST of steps that need to taken in developing a collaboration with a PATH CI, obtaining approval to use PATH data and in submitting a paper. Please use this checklist to guide you through the process.**