Comparing MTAs, DUAs, and NDAs

MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT (MTA)

A **Material Transfer Agreement** (**MTA**) is a contract that governs the transfer of materials between institutions for use in research. Materials may include cell lines, plasmids, nucleotides, proteins, transgenic animals, plant varieties, bacteria, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.

MTAs protect both the researcher's and Purdue's interests and the ability to conduct future research related to the material. It is important to ensure that the provider does not include terms that may restrict Purdue's academic freedom, assert undue rights of ownership of discoveries, or use indemnification language that may put the University at risk.

For more information about MTAs, click here.

DATA TRANSFER AND USE AGREEMENT (DUA)

Data Transfer and Use Agreements ("DTUA", "DUA", or "DTA") are contracts that govern the exchange of specific data between two parties. A data agreement establishes the permitted disclosure of a unique data set, allowable uses, and any privacy or security requirements necessary for receiving and handling the data. A data agreement also assigns appropriate responsibilities to the researcher(s) and recipient(s) using the data.

For more information about DUAs, click here.

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT(NDA)

A **Nondisclosure Agreement** (**NDA**) is necessary for Purdue personnel and an outside organization to share information that is confidential.

Sometimes NDAs can be over-used and give a false sense of comfort. Please recall that an NDA creates a legal obligation for the University, usually for several years, and requires the Primary Recipient to manage information continually throughout the term of the agreement. If the goals can be achieved without the need for disclosing confidential information, the Primary Recipient should consider relying only on public information. When in doubt, please consult a Contract Analyst in Sponsored Program Services or the Research Information Assurance Office.

For more information about NDAs, click here.

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