



Responsible Conduct in Research Case Study: Collaboration

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Over the course of 4 years, Dr. Moss established a network of field sites to ask a series of exciting new questions about the life history of moss. After these first 4 years of groundbreaking work, Dr. Moss sees the potential for linking moss and soils and therefore invites Dr. Soil to collaborate on the project. After 5 years, their collaboration has yielded some intriguing new results.

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1. Based on the results derived from this collaboration, Dr. Moss wants to pursue a new research question at these sites, requiring Dr. Animal's expertise. Dr. Moss feels that Dr. Soil's expertise isn't needed to address the new research questions.

Should Dr. Moss keep Dr. Soil as a collaborator on this new project?

On what does the decision depend?

Does the recommendation change if the related research will be conducted at different sites?

2. What if Dr. Soil would like to start a new set of experiments on these sites with Dr. Nutrient?

Does work on the sites that Dr. Moss set up require collaboration with Dr. Moss?

Does the recommendation change if the related research will be conducted at different sites?

3. A graduate student comes in to work on this project, and works closely with one of the PIs and only peripherally with the other. However, the graduate student's work is addressing the interactions between moss and soil. The graduate student is not aware of the history of the project, and credits the advisor with most of the background work. The student continues to work on this project as an assistant professor, and the non-advisor PI feels that some research plans have been usurped.

How should each player proceed?

Does this change depending upon whether the student's advisor was Dr. Moss or Dr. Soil? Why or why not?

4. Do the answers to all of these questions change if the sites were established by Dr. Soil and Dr. Moss together? How?

