The Executive Committee (EC) of the Million Veteran Program (MVP) has established the following Publication Policy, applicable to scientific “products” involving MVP data. This policy is intended to help MVP investigators and stakeholders understand the procedures and principles for how MVP related abstracts, posters, manuscripts, and other accomplishments or activities are managed.

**Background:** The scope of activities for each MVP-related study is defined by its funding award, corresponding regulatory approvals, and any agreed upon terms with MVP leadership—including the study’s Executive Committee—for use of its resources. Related issues (not described in this document) include access to genomic and phenomic data, as well as requests for MVP biospecimens or for re-contact of MVP participants. MVP’s long-term goals include making results of scientific activities available to VA, the broader scientific community, and the public in accordance with VA policy. Publications and dissemination of results are seen as part of a larger set of contributions MVP will make towards its goal of advancing precision medicine.

**Policy Statement:** MVP’s publication policy aims to protect the integrity of MVP studies and the welfare of MVP participants, while encouraging dissemination of results as well as considering prerequisite activities for investigator-authors. The MVP EC oversees all aspects of this policy and reports to the VA Office of Research and Development (ORD).

**Overview of Procedures:** To help ensure overall MVP study integrity, support the conduct of ethical and high-quality research, and avoid duplicative publications, proposals for scientific products (herein referred to as abstracts and manuscripts) should be submitted—in advance of their preparation—to the MVP Publication Committee, as constituted by the MVP EC. All abstract and manuscript proposals and subsequent submissions must be available for Publication Committee review, whether they involve a single study, a subset of a study, or a series of studies. If the Publication Committee believes that a product should more appropriately involve a wider or a narrower scope of data, then this recommendation will be made to the applicants.

The MVP Publication Committee will catalog and track each submission; it will also maintain a library of published products as they become available. The Publication Committee administrator will be responsible for logging each application, assigning an abstract or manuscript proposal number, following progress, and informing the applicant of the Publication Committee’s decisions.
Of note, abstract or manuscript proposals may be included in the original request for MVP data access or other procedures when participating in MVP; details will be provided in corresponding instructions.

**Applications:** At present (and with a web strategy in-development), an initial application is accomplished by completing a MVP *Proposal for Scientific Publication* form and submitting it to MVPPUB@va.gov. For the duration of each MVP project, any submitted abstract or manuscript using MVP data must be associated with the corresponding approved proposal.

**Approval Process:** Approvals are intended to ensure that the anticipated and eventual scope of a proposed abstract or manuscripts fits within the approval for the corresponding research.

Regarding each *proposed* abstract or manuscript, investigators should inform the Publication Committee (at MVPPUB@va.gov) as soon as work begins on a draft text. In turn, the Committee—within two weeks for manuscripts and one week for abstracts—will indicate its approval, or disapproval “for cause.” Approved proposals, and eventually linked publications, will be posted in an accessible archive. In cases of overlap among proposals or completed documents, the Publication Committee may contact individuals and encourage them to discuss their common interests and decide whether joint or separate efforts are appropriate.

In terms of *completed* products, manuscripts should be submitted (to MVPPUB@va.gov) for administrative review at least five business days before journal submission, to ensure appropriate funding acknowledgements; the corresponding timeframe for abstracts is two business days. Reviews will not focus on scientific content, but are intended to ensure applicable VA policies and standards for publications are met. Lead authors are also requested to notify the Publication Committee when a manuscript is accepted for publication.

**Collaboration and authorship:** It is strongly advised that authorship be discussed prior to the initiation of any abstract or manuscript. Investigators whose study data are included in a published product are entitled to appropriate representation in the writing group. An authorship banner, on behalf of MVP and defined by the Executive Committee, shall be included in all publications to acknowledge members of the MVP leadership team, Biorepository, GenISIS team, MVP Coordinating Centers, and local site investigators. The MVP banner will be updated periodically, as needed.

A person or team may decline to collaborate in any abstract or manuscript. Given the substantial investment that has been made in MVP, however, data can only be withheld from use in a manuscript for reasons such as those related to participant consent, potential harm to participants, or other substantive issues (subject to discussion).

As stated above, all abstracts and manuscripts must be associated with a previously approved proposal. Simultaneous submission of a proposal and a related abstract or manuscript will be viewed as lacking transparency, is strongly discouraged, and may lead to delay in approval and submission.

**Posting of aggregate genomic results:** The Publication Committee, with concurrence of the Executive Committee, will provide guidelines for accessing websites for posting of aggregate results. Such postings should adhere to previously published formats that protect against identifiability.

**Mandatory acknowledgment statement:** MVP-related manuscripts submitted for publication must include the following acknowledgment: “This research is based on data from the Million Veteran Program, Office of Research and Development, Veterans Health Administration, and was supported by award # [info]. This publication does not represent the views of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Government.”

**Additional notes:** In the future, and after a corresponding website is launched, an archive of MVP scientific publications will be accessible. Please refer any questions regarding MVP publication policies and procedures to MVPPUB@va.gov.