This document describes a general policy for involving our full team in research, and also for inviting new collaborators to participate in projects within the scope of our research, e.g., using data or other resources developed by our team. We see this document as necessary to remain focused on our goals and to reduce the possibility for conflict over the course of the project.

*Within the Team -* Any individuals who are present in our original meeting to develop this project, on XX June 2013, may become involved in any aspect of the work undertaken by our team. These individuals are listed by name at the end of this document. In other words, anyone who is a current project participant (including incoming future students or postdocs funded on the project) and has an interest in a particular analysis/product, is welcome to participate in that effort. Each of us has particular areas of expertise in which we lead, but the strength of our project is in the integration of our efforts. See Authorship Guidelines for guidance on attribution.

*New Collaborators -* We try to maintain this spirit of inclusivity for non-project participants as well, but we also recognize the need 1) to protect components of research for project participants as laid out our initial development of the project, and 2) to acknowledge that team dynamics are critical to our success, such that the team should be consulted on invitations. The following guidelines are an effort to help guide future possible interactions that may arise with non-project researchers. Below is the suggested strategy when non-project researchers request to work with our group (please note that there is a separate policy for data sharing).

For researchers nominated to collaborate by one of our team’s participants, we suggest:

* 1. The nominating team member describe the proposed collaboration between that individual and our team
  2. If the team agrees that the person seems to fit within a particular research project/analysis, then, we suggest:
     + Sharing a copy of the authorship, data, and collaborator policy;
     + Discussing what time they will devote to what products, analysis, manuscripts in order to actively participate in the research activity that was decided upon.

For researchers who approach the team with suggested collaboration, but with whom none of the participants has a working relationship:

Before the above steps are followed, a thorough discussion should occur among group leaders to consider:

* + - Does the requester bring a different perspective to the group that might be valuable for some of the research?
    - Does anyone have information about the ability of the requester to be a team player and good collaborator?
    - Whether the research interests overlap with current student or postdoc projects.

NOTE: If the research area overlaps with student or postdoc projects, then further discussion should occur with the advisor, student/postdoc, and possible collaborator - we need to be especially sensitive to the cost-benefit balance of increasing the number of collaborators on manuscripts led by our junior colleagues.