

Categories of WHI Investigators [modified September 2025]

Recognition as a WHI investigator implies that a scientist is actively engaged and committed to advancing WHI science. The WHI has defined three categories of investigators and specified their corresponding rights and responsibilities with respect to use of WHI resources. The highest level of engagement (WHI Investigator) is afforded greater access to data and the ability to sponsor / support access to these resources by other investigators. This designation is for investigators with demonstrated experience, knowledge and advanced understanding of WHI science and its related resources. The Associate WHI investigator designation allows affords greater access to data and resources within WHI. This designation can advance toward the WHI investigator designation over time and with expanded experience, expertise and responsibilities on WHI standing committees. The legacy designation is to acknowledge scientists who self-select to reduce engagement in WHI science but have served in a WHI investigator role historically and wish to continue engagement.

Underlying this document is a philosophy that WHI science is advanced through active collaborations by informed, enthusiastic and responsible investigators and that the greater the inclusivity of this effort the higher the potential for scientific impact of WHI science. Complimentary to the investigator category description is a process diagram to support transparency and engagement in WHI science.

Title	Qualifications	Rights	Responsibilities
WHI Investigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current or recent (within the past 5 years) Principal Investigator of a primary data collection site or the CCC.• Current full member of a standing WHI committee (Steering Committee [SC], Ancillary Study Committee [ASC], Outcomes Committee [OAC], Presentations and Publications Committee [P&P], Scientific Workgroup [SRWG])• Named on a current WHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Propose manuscripts or ancillary studies.• Sponsor a colleague in proposing manuscripts or ancillary studies.• Nominate oneself or a colleague to be a co-author of an approved manuscript.• Nominate oneself or a colleague to be a committee member.• Download data under a Data Use Agreement (DUA).• Invited to WHI Investigator meetings.• Propose individuals to become	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply with WHI policies.• Participate in the scientific productivity of the program.

	<p>contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current or recent (within the past 5 years) member of the NIH Program Office team for WHI. • Current Lead of a Scientific Interest Group (SIG). • Current PI (or MPI) on AS; excluding consortium AS. • AND • Demonstrated scientific contributions (e.g., lead role in WHI publications, AS engagement, presentation of WHI Science at scientific meetings, mentoring of early-stage investigators or scientists new to WHI science) 	Associate Investigators	
Associate WHI Investigator (if not a WHI Investigator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHI Scientific Interest Group (SIG) lead within the past 5 years. OR • Prior PI or MPI of an extramurally funded Ancillary Study within past 5 years. • To submit a paper proposal without a WHI Sponsor: lead on ≥ 2 WHI manuscript publications and demonstrated engagement as co- author on additional WHI publications. 	<p>Associate Investigator I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If qualified via prior WHI paper authorship, Associate Investigator I may propose a manuscript (without sponsorship by another WHI Investigator • If qualified via paper authorship, Associate Investigator I may nominate oneself to be a co-author of an approved manuscript <p>Associate Investigator II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with WHI policies. • Lead scientific activities (e.g., publish a manuscript or develop an ancillary study for funding).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To submit an ancillary study proposal without a WHI Sponsor: lead on ≥ 2 WHI approved ancillary studies <p><i>Other individuals may qualify for Associate WHI Investigator status, based on engagement with and contributions to WHI; A current WHI Investigator may nominate or sponsor a self-nominated investigator who meets the qualification of criteria for Associate WHI Investigator.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If qualified via PI/MPI of ancillary study, Associate Investigator II may propose an ancillary study (without sponsorship by another WHI Investigator). <p>All Associate Investigators are eligible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominate oneself to be a committee member. Those who qualify to propose a manuscript and ancillary study without sponsorship will be classified as Associate Investigator II. <p>(Does not sponsor or nominate other investigators)</p>	
Legacy WHI Investigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer meeting criteria for WHI Investigator or Associate WHI Investigator and having a history of contribution to WHI 5 or more years ago as Past PI or co-I (i.e. named on the contract) at CCC, Regional Center, or original WHI site. Contributions to WHI made 5 or more years ago while employed at the NIH. Past WHI chair of a WHI standing committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose a manuscript or ancillary study (without a PI sponsor. Nominate oneself to be a co-author or committee member. Invited to WHI investigator meetings. <p>(Does not sponsor or nominate other investigators. Not authorized to download data under DUA except through P&P and ASC mechanisms).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with WHI policies.

**Nomination of Associate WHI Investigators:* Individuals who qualify as Associate WHI Investigators may be nominated by WHI Investigator or may self-nominate. The application form must be completed and submitted to the WHI SC for review and approval. This forms includes a brief statement of qualifications from a WHI investigator. Associate WHI Investigator status will be confirmed by a majority vote of the SC.