

The Focused Ultrasound Foundation and Data Repositories

The Focused Ultrasound Foundation recognizes the importance of open data practices and actively advocates for [data sharing](#). Putting this into practice, the Foundation requires that any source data underlying project results obtained from Foundation funding be made publicly available at study completion.

Consistent with these values, the Foundation supports and encourages the creation and use of focused ultrasound-related data repositories, in particular cloud-based approaches for data sharing and collaborative analysis. Such platforms, coupled with bioinformatic coding and advanced analytics, will provide meaningful benefits, accelerating the growth of both preclinical and clinical focused ultrasound data ecosystems. They will allow researchers to:

- replicate studies
- re-analyze and/or reprocess data
- reuse data in some circumstances
- perform cross-comparison
- avoid duplication of effort
- support the development of new projects or protocols.

Further, such repositories will ideally aggregate data from multiple sites and projects.

The Foundation's role in data repository activities is to identify needs, objectives, and adequate platforms; convene ecosystem participants; and, if needed, support project managers to ensure normalized data acquisitions across sites. Such structured and unstructured data may be high-dimensional, including images, clinical reports, or treatment parameters; and may be gathered to create clinical case libraries, allowing multicenter analysis and application of best data science practices. The Foundation is neither equipped nor staffed to host such repositories, nor is it well-suited to lead analytical efforts. Rather, we are adept at bringing parties together to best understand optimal data sharing and analysis strategies. The Foundation also works to ensure that the ecosystem benefits from the brightest minds and best analytical tools for extrapolating insights from the acquired data.

The Foundation welcomes inquiries and perspectives on this important topic, via email to data@fusfoundation.org. With our partners, we look forward to advancing data capture and analysis to foster knowledge development and to establish optimal treatment strategies across the global focused ultrasound community.