

## Goal

To be consistent with NTAPs values of fostering collaboration and the open and timely sharing of results, we require all NTAP funded researchers upload project data to the Sage Bionetworks' [Synapse Platform](#). All data uploaded onto Synapse will be private and visible only to the contributing researchers and Sage staff until it is ready to be shared with designated collaborators or released to the public.

## Data vs. Metadata

To fulfill the data upload requirements, scientists must provide *metadata* associated with each file being uploaded. Metadata is encoded by a specific data dictionary provided by NTAP and Sage, with a minimum annotation set that includes species, cell type, assay type, and other basic descriptors. These metadata terms are then collected across NTAP projects to enable data summaries and statistics. Metadata is encoded in a basic excel spreadsheet provided by Sage and takes only minutes to fill out. Sage staff is available to assist with metadata curation, annotation, and data transfer.

## Project activity

Surveying activity across NTAP-funded projects will allow for transparency between NTAP, NTAP-funded researchers, and the public (while keeping the data itself private). Data upload will trigger automatic updating of research activity in a centralized table of [NTAP-related activity](#), thus making this process automatic. As projects are updated these tables will also be updated to provide real-time estimates of research activity.