

Ontario Stroke Registry: Publications Policy

The Ontario Stroke Registry (OSR), formerly known as the Registry of the Canadian Stroke Network, is one of the largest clinical databases of stroke patients in the world. Researchers are encouraged to submit proposals for research studies to be conducted using OSR data.

The following policies have been adopted to facilitate research using OSR data and to promote publication of the results.

1. Requests for research projects using OSR data should be emailed to osn@ices.on.ca. An ICES Scientist affiliated with the OSR will review the submission to assess project feasibility and data availability. A response will be issued within ten business days of the submission.

Priority will be given to projects that are scientifically novel, high impact, answerable, and led by an investigator with a demonstrated track record in publications. Where a new project submission has substantial overlap with an existing project, the investigators will be given the opportunity to collaborate.

2. An understanding of the OSR databases is necessary for proper use and interpretation of the data. For this reason, each project must include a sponsoring ICES Scientist who is affiliated with the OSR.
3. Each new research project submission must include the following completed documents (available at www.ices.on.ca/osr):
 - a. OSR Research Request Form
 - b. Proposal (approximately two pages) that includes the following:
 - i. The project title
 - ii. The principal investigator's contact information and primary institution, as well as the names of the co-investigators
 - iii. The sponsoring ICES scientist
 - iv. Hypothesis or research questions/objectives
 - v. Background: The rationale for the study along with a summary of previous research in this area, including appropriate references.
 - vi. A Data Analysis Plan that outlines the statistical methods that will be used for the study. A list of required databases, data variables and the years of data requested must be specified. Mock tables and figures that are being requested from the ICES analyst must also be included. The draft tables should specify the analysis requirements in as much detail as possible. Prior to submitting a data request, the principal investigator (PI) is encouraged to contact the OSR at osn@ices.on.ca if there are any questions about the data being requested.
 - vii. An Appendix with draft tables, figures and a dataset creation plan (DCP) that outlines the project's analytic plan. The information in the appendix should specify the programming and analysis requirements in as much detail as possible in order to use analyst time efficiently. The PI may wish to speak directly with the analyst prior to submitting the project proposal.
4. In order to efficiently allocate analyst time, a PI may have only one approved project in progress at a given time. Once the paper resulting from this analysis has been submitted for publication, the PI may submit a new project request. In instances where a project includes multiple

subprojects each of which will result in a separate publication, each subproject must be submitted and approved as a separate project.

5. Once a project is approved, the PI will be informed of the approximate timeline needed to complete the requested analyses. The analyst and PI will work together directly once analysis is underway.
6. If a research project using OSR data is to be submitted for external funding, the grant proposal must be submitted, reviewed and approved by an ICES Scientist who is affiliated with the OSR prior to submission to the granting agency.
7. Not more than one year shall elapse between project approval and submission of a manuscript for publication.
8. All manuscripts using OSR data must be submitted to the OSR Publications Committee for review prior to submission for publication. The OSR retains the right to deny approval for publication.
9. All manuscripts must acknowledge the OSR and ICES using the following standard disclaimer:

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10. Once a paper has been accepted for publication, the PI must notify the OSR office at osn@ices.on.ca at least 30 days prior to publication in order to comply with ICES publication policies.