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Ownership and Control of Data

Annette Flanagin

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Conceptual application of the term property to scientific knowledge is not new, but advances in science and technology and economic factors have fueled disputes and concerns over ownership, control, and access to original data. Data used in biomedical research, increasingly complex, now include large data sets, software, algorithms, and metadata (data that provide information or characteristics about other data). With the exception of commercially owned information, scientific data are viewed as a public good, allowing others to benefit from knowledge of and access to the information without decreasing the benefit received by the individual who originally developed the data. Ideally,