



POLICIES FOR UTILIZATION OF THE NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION IN RESEARCH (Revised February, 2013)

The NSA membership provides a unique resource for scientists seeking to conduct research on the many facets of stuttering. Recognizing this, the NSA Board of Directors has issued the following policies regarding the use of the NSA organization, members, and resources in research:

1. The first and foremost function of the NSA is to provide support and education for people who stutter and their families. Research activities must in no way interfere with this function. Research activities that could potentially serve to alienate NSA members and/or their family members from the organization, or that would result in an apparent breach of trust between the NSA organization and its members, or that would reflect negatively upon the members or the organization, will not be approved/authorized.
2. Priority in research activities involving the NSA will be given to research projects that may validate the purpose and activities of the organization and/or that would assist NSA leadership and members in making decisions concerning NSA objectives and activities.
3. Researchers must understand that NSA members who stutter and their families have chosen to participate in self-help activities and therefore may represent a unique sub-population of those affected by stuttering which may not be representative of the larger stuttering population. Research proposals must reflect this fact in any project intending to use the NSA membership as subjects.
4. Use of the NSA organization, members, and/or resources in research requires both NSARC and NSA national office approval. Investigators wishing to utilize the NSA organization, members, and/or resources in research must submit a formal research proposal following the "Procedures for Submitting Research Proposals" to the NSA national office for review and approval.
5. While the NSA encourages and is supportive of a variety of research proposals, it is also mindful of both the quality and quantity of projects submitted each year. Research proposals that (a) do not meet the requirements put forth in the "Procedures for Submitting Research Proposals," (b) are not deemed relevant to the NSA, or (c) are repetitive of prior projects, may either be returned with recommendations by the NSARC intended to assist the investigator in improving the submission, or be denied.

The NSARC realizes that many researchers have a desire to collect data during NSA-sanctioned events. Unfortunately, the time and space at NSA events is limited. Therefore, the number and scope of research projects being conducted at NSA events will be determined by the NSA office. Investigators wishing to conduct research at any NSA event must have submitted their proposal (including all required Institutional Review Board / Human Subjects Protection approvals) a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the event.

6. The NSARC may limit the number of research proposals that are accepted during a specific time period to avoid participant overload or fatigue.
7. Local NSA chapters are encouraged, but not required, to participate in research projects approved by the NSARC. Chapters are free to participate in local research projects but must refer all requests from researchers to the NSA office for review.