



# The NIDUS Delirium Research Hub: Ten Questions

with Ed Marcantonio, NIDUS Delirium Research Hub Leader

## 1) What is the NIDUS Delirium Research Hub?

The Delirium Research Hub, one of five NIDUS cores, is a repository of meta-data (like a “table of contents”) including over 1,300 human and over 200 animal studies. And the number grows each week.

## 2) What’s in the Research Hub?

Each entry contains information on study design, sample characteristics, delirium measures, clinical outcomes, biospecimens, neuroimaging, neurophysiology, and interventions tested, as applicable. The Animal Hub contains parallel data for animal models studies of delirium.

## 3) How can I find information about studies in the Hub?

The Hub includes an easy-to-use search tool “The Resource Finder” that enables identification of studies based on investigator, study design, measures used, or resources available. There is a video demonstrating use of this search tool on the NIDUS website.

## 4) If I want more information about obtaining study resources identified in the Hub, what’s the next step?

Each study entry includes contact information for the principal investigator or their delegates and whether study resources (data, biospecimens, neuroimaging, neurophysiological data) are available for secondary data analyses, meta-analyses, collaborative projects, or pilot studies.

## 5) Can you give an example of using the Hub for systematic reviews or meta-analyses?

Dr. Benjamin Helfand, Brown University, used the Hub to: 1) identify studies for a systematic review on delirium identification instruments in non-ICU settings, 2) find collaborators who used specific instruments to determine optimal cut-points for sensitivity and specificity, and 3) develop crosswalks between these instruments. These efforts resulted in publications in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, and *Dementia Geriatrics & Cognitive Disorders*.

## 6) Can you give an example of using the Hub to identify collaborators for a grant?

Dr. Fah Vasunilashorn, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School, used the Hub to identify delirium studies that collected blood and genetic material. This ultimately resulted in funding of an NIA R01 with Co-Investigator, Dr. Miles Berger, Duke University, on the interaction of genetic predisposition and inflammation in delirium, cognitive decline and Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

## 7) The NIDUS Delirium Research Hub is an NIH-sanctioned resource sharing site. What does that mean?

You’ve written most of your NIH research application and are coming down the home stretch. It is time to write the “Resource Sharing Plan”, which is now required for all NIH applications. For this section, you can state that you intend to submit your study meta-data to the Hub, with information about study resources available for sharing. This fulfills the NIH requirement.



### **8) Can I enter my own study into the Hub?**

In short, no. During the early phases of the Hub, we encouraged investigators to enter their own studies. *However, we no longer allow this, and NIDUS-supported staff now enter all the studies.* We search the delirium literature weekly to enter new studies of interest. You are also welcome to contact us at [NIDUS@hsl.harvard.edu](mailto:NIDUS@hsl.harvard.edu) to request that your study be entered into the Hub.

### **9) How can I help the Hub staff ensure my study meta-data is accurate?**

After our staff enters your study, they will reach out to you as PI to confirm your study meta-data. PLEASE RESPOND TO THESE EMAILS. Having accurate data about your study in the Hub is to your benefit, and also benefits the field.

### **10) How do I ensure the resource sharing status of my study is correct?**

Again, PLEASE respond to our emails! If we don't hear from you, the resource sharing status of your study will be set to NO SHARING. We suspect most of you would be willing to share some study resources under certain circumstances. And, as noted above, if your study is NIH-funded, sharing is required. This will only be accurately reflected in the Hub if you respond to our emails.

Thanks, and please reach out to us with any additional questions at [NIDUS@hsl.harvard.edu](mailto:NIDUS@hsl.harvard.edu).