

**Independent Investigator:** When a collaborator outside of UNC-CH is not acting as an employee of another group or organization with respect to their involvement in the research, they may be considered an Independent Investigator. Typically independent investigators are volunteers, recent graduates or former staff who are no longer affiliated with UNC, or independent consultants contracted to work on the research.

In order to be considered an independent investigator, this person is required to complete an [‘Independent Investigator Confirmation Form’](#) which confirms that the person’s work on the project is independent of another institution, as they are not exercising authority or responsibility on behalf of a group or organization, performing activities designated by a group or organization, or using the collaboration for scholarly advancement (e.g., promotion, tenure) at a group or organization.

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