



**DATE:** December 29, 2017

**TO:** Brandie Taylor  
Strategic Planning & Evaluation Branch  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

**FROM:** NIH Privacy Act Officer

**SUBJECT:** Applicability of the Privacy Act: Generic Clearance to Conduct Formative Research

I have reviewed the NIAID submission to the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act which proposes to collect information to improve research strategies and final product development in an effort to identify emergent infectious disease threats and comorbidities related to needs of diverse audiences.

The information to be collected as part of this generic clearance will allow the agency to make appropriate adjustments in content and methods used in developmental and testing stages, including peer-review, to improve research approaches and final product development. To the extent possible, data collection will employ automated or electronic methods. These collections may utilize electronic platforms such as Dedoose, Qualtrics, and Survey Monkey. Exceptions will include data collection methodologies which may not lend themselves to electronic data capture, such as focus groups, market research, and interviews. Personally identifiable information will not be collected.

I have determined that the Privacy Act will not apply to this data collection because personally identifiable information will not be collected and retrieved to identify individuals. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 402-6201.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celeste Dade-Vinson".

Celeste Dade-Vinson  
NIH Privacy Act Officer

cc: Mikia Currie, NIH Project Clearance Branch