Collaboration

Role Play:

This is a 2-person role play involving a post doc student and a faculty member.

Roles:

Post doc student

Faculty member

Character Description:

Post Doctoral Student

You are a post doctoral student who has been studying with a faculty member for the past 3 years. After applying for several positions at other institutions, you are offered a tenure track position at a well known institution. Your understanding is that during your post doc work, the result from this work belongs to you and the data can be taken to the new institution.

Character Description:

Faculty Member

Although you are used to working alone, you started to realize that it was beneficial to collaborate once in a while with others. An up-and-coming post doc wanted to work with you and had similar research interests. You agreed to the arrangement and training and mentored the post doc for approximately 3 years. The post doc has been applying for positions at various institutions and recently informed you that she has been hired into a tenure track position. According to the post doc, the work done during her fellowship belongs to her and she is taking the data with her.

*Scenario*

Post doc student leaves the institution and takes the data with her.

*Post doc:* “Yes. I have accepted a position at a neighboring institution and will begin working over there in the next two weeks. Because I will be departing soon, I have a final version of the data, which I just finished cleaning and organizing from my post doc project. I plan to move this forward and disseminate the research findings”

*Faculty member: “*Thanks for agreeing to meet with me. I was a little surprised to hear that you have taken a new job at another university and will be taking my data with you.”

*Post doc:* How do you respond?