**Versaic grants portal Privacy Notice**

**Effective Date:** January 2025

Merck & Co., Inc. (Rahway, NJ, USA) – also known as Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) outside the U.S. and Canada, and its affiliates herein after the (“**Company**”) is committed to protecting your privacy and your personally identifiable data and other personal information (“**Personal Data**”). The Company has created this privacy notice (the “**Privacy Notice**”) to let you know what information the Company collects when you use Versaic Grant Portal (the “**Portal**”), how the Company collects it and how it makes use of it. Please read this Privacy Notice carefully prior to using the Portal. The Portal processes data according to the Company Privacy Statement (it can be found by visiting the following site: [www.msdprivacy.com](http://www.msdprivacy.com)). The Company has engaged a third-party service provider, Benevity, to provide the Versaic Grant Portal on our behalf. For information about Benevity’s privacy practices, please see their [privacy policy](https://benevity.com/privacy-policy).

**Categories of Personal Data Collected**

The Company collects and stores the Personal Data when you visit or use the Portal and when you provide it to the Company, such as in your communications with the Company. Types of the Personal Data collected include:

* Personal Information: first and last name, email address;
* Organization contact information: such as organization name, email address, phone, postal address, and registration information;
* Grant application information: such as the grant applicant’s contact, registration and other requested information noted on the application forms;
* Transactional information: including grants, disbursements, account histories and other interactions generated using the platform;
* Correspondence: including requests for support with the use of platform and notifications from the Portal;
* Technical information: including IP address, generalized location, usage data, usernames and other account information or credentials.

**Use of Personal Data**

We use Personal Data to process your application, enhance the operation of the Portal, and tailor your experience for the Portal. We may collect and use your Personal Data to:

* create and manage your user account;
* process and report upon your application;
* display or provide content that is created by you or customized to your interests and preferences;
* facilitate your application transactions and prepare necessary receipts or other acknowledgments;
* communicate with you about your application and necessary transactions and your use of the Portal; and
* carry out other purposes which are disclosed to you and to which you consent or as otherwise permitted or required by applicable law.

We may send you transaction-related communications such as welcome letters, reminders, grant confirmations, thank-you letters, impact statements and the like. If you are an administrator of a program, we may also send you surveys or marketing communications to inform you of new grant opportunities or services or other information that may be of interest to you/your company. If you do not wish to receive surveys or marketing communications, you may opt-out by following the “unsubscribe” instructions included within each email communication. Please note that if you choose not to receive marketing or survey communications, you will continue to receive transactional and account communications (e.g. confirmation emails, account balance statements, etc.).  If you wish to receive communications from us, you have the right to opt-in at the time of signing up for Portal.

The Company shall only use or disclose Personal Data for the purpose for which it was collected, a related secondary purpose (where reasonably expected), with your consent, or where otherwise permitted by law.

Where applicable privacy and data protection laws require a legal basis to process Personal Data, the Company relies on the following lawful bases:

* For collecting and using the Personal Data provided by you to initiate, process and assess the grant applications is our legitimate interest and/or a contract with you.
* For any information provided by you in any other context is on a consent basis, or at your direction.

**Sharing and Transfer of Your Personal Data**

The Company will share or otherwise disclose your Personal Data to the following categories of recipients in the following circumstances:

* Our corporate affiliates: to fulfil the purposes specified above in accordance with this Privacy Notice.
* Third party vendors and service providers, where applicable: to provide and improve the Portal as well as for specialized services such as customer service, networking, billing, marketing, hosting, data processing and other services related to the Portal.
* Law enforcement authorities, courts, and administrative or regulatory bodies: to comply with applicable legislation, a court order or legal process.
* Other third parties as necessary: for purposes such as to protect and defend the Company’ (or its licensors’) rights or property, prevent fraud or violations of our engagement, and ensure the personal safety of other users of the Portal or the public at large.

We may share your information among our corporate affiliates and will do so in accordance with our Global Privacy Statement, Global Cross Border Privacy Policy, our Binding Corporate Rules (which have been approved in the European Union) and/or the Standard Contractual Clauses (when applicable). Your Personal Data may also be shared with other organisations who work on our behalf but solely at the direction of the Company. Organisations that receive information from the Company will be contractually bound to only use this information in accordance with Company’s instructions and in a manner that is consistent with all relevant data protection laws. A copy of our Global Privacy Statement and Global Cross Border Privacy Policy can be found by visiting the following site: [www.msdprivacy.com](http://www.msdprivacy.com).

**Security**

The Company has implemented suitable security policies, rules and technical measures to protect and safeguard the Personal Data under its control from unauthorized access, improper use or disclosure, unauthorized modification, unlawful destruction or accidental loss. The Company may use third party vendors and hosting partners to provide the necessary hardware, software, networking, storage, and related technology required to provide the service. These may be located at destinations outside your jurisdiction. By submitting your Personal Data, you agree to this. All of the Company' employees and data processors that have access to and are associated with the processing of your Personal Data, are obliged to respect the confidentiality of your Personal Data.

**Links to Other Sites**

The Portal may contain links to other sites. Other sites may also reference or link to the Portal. The Company is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of such other online sites, and any information collected by these third-party online sites is not governed by this Privacy Notice, and the Company assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the policies (including privacy policies), practices, actions or omissions of such third parties.

**Your Rights**

You can opt-out of marketing emails by utilizing the “unsubscribe” link or other mechanism noted in marketing emails you receive from the Company.

In accordance with applicable law (including relevant exemptions, as applicable), you may have the right to object to or request restriction of processing of your Personal Data, the right to request access, rectification, erasure and portability of your Personal Data or the right to receive confirmation that the Company holds your Personal Data. When requesting correction of your Personal Data, you may have the right under applicable law, to provide to us a statement of the correction sought (the “**Correction Statement**”) and request that, if we do not make the correction you have sought, the Correction Statement is attached to the relevant Personal Data. Where the Company is using your Personal Data on the basis of your consent, you have the right to withdraw this consent at any time without affecting the lawfulness of the processing based on the consent prior to its withdrawal. You also have the right to lodge a complaint in relation to a breach of privacy principles in accordance with the Company Privacy Statement (see below) or with your data protection authority. If you choose to exercise your data protection rights, please visit [www.msdprivacy.com](http://www.msdprivacy.com) and select your country of residence to submit your request.

**Retention and Deletion of Your Personal Data**

The Company will retain your Personal Data for as long as needed to provide you with the activities described in this Privacy Notice. This often means that the Company will keep Personal Data for the duration of your account, which will be terminated in accordance with the Privacy Notice. Please note, however, that where applicable legislation requires the Company to do so, it will be required to keep records of your Personal Data even after such termination during the term established by applicable law.

**Contact Information**

In the event that you wish to learn more about our data privacy practices or to make a complaint about how the Company processes your Personal Data, please contact the Company at the contact details below.

Contact details: Please visit [www.msdprivacy.com](http://www.msdprivacy.com) and select your country of residence to obtain relevant contact details.

Company Privacy Statement: A copy of our Global Privacy Statement can be found by visiting the following site: [www.msdprivacy.com](http://www.msdprivacy.com).The Company will endeavour to deal with your request as soon as possible.

Where applicable, you have the right to lodge a complaint with a data protection authority.

**Change to this Privacy Notice**

The Company reserves the right to make, from time to time, changes and updates to this Privacy Notice as shall be [provided](https://mydrive.merck.com/personal/ivanelen_merck_com/Documents/Desktop/Documents/provided) in the Portal. You are responsible for regularly familiarising yourself with our communication to obtain timely notice of such changes. If you do not agree to the altered Privacy Notice, you may stop using the Portal.