

RCSI STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY

The benefits and value of research are absolutely dependent on the integrity of research. Although there are national and disciplinary differences in the way research can be conducted, there are also underlying principles and professional responsibilities that are fundamental to the integrity of research wherever it is undertaken. RCSI researchers must comply with the principles of research integrity and acknowledge their responsibilities in the performance of quality scientific research.

PRINCIPLES

Honesty in all aspects of research

Accountability in the conduct of research

Professional courtesy and fairness in working with others

Good stewardship of research on behalf of others

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Integrity:** You should take responsibility for the trustworthiness of your research.
- 2. Adherence to Regulations:** You should be aware of and adhere to regulations and policies related to research.
- 3. Research Methods:** You should employ appropriate research methods, base conclusions on critical analysis of the evidence and report findings and interpretations fully and objectively.
- 4. Research Ethics:** You should be aware of your ethical obligations and ensure that all research is carried out with the utmost respect for human or animal participants
- 5. Research Records:** You should keep clear, accurate records of all research in ways that will allow verification and replication of your work by others.
- 6. Research Findings:** You should share data and findings openly and promptly, as soon as you have had an opportunity to establish priority and ownership claims.
- 7. Authorship:** You should take responsibility for your contributions to all publications, funding applications, reports and other representations of your research. Lists of authors should include all those and only those who meet applicable authorship criteria.
- 8. Publication Acknowledgement:** You should acknowledge in publications the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to the research but do not meet authorship criteria.
- 9. Peer Review:** You should provide fair, prompt and rigorous evaluations and respect confidentiality when reviewing others' work.
- 10. Conflict of Interest:** You should disclose financial and other conflicts of interest that could compromise the trustworthiness of your work in research proposals, publications and public communications as well as in all review activities.
- 11. Public Communication:** You should limit professional comments to their recognized expertise when engaged in public discussions about the application and importance of research findings and clearly distinguish professional comments from opinions based on personal views.
- 12. Reporting Irresponsible Research Practices:** You should report any suspected research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, and other irresponsible research practices that undermine the trustworthiness of research, such as carelessness, improperly listing authors, failing to report conflicting data, or the use of misleading analytical methods.
- 13. Responding to Irresponsible Research Practices:** If misconduct or other irresponsible research practice is confirmed, appropriate actions will be taken promptly, including correcting the research record.
- 14. Research Environments:** RCSI provides an environment that encourages integrity through education, clear policies, and reasonable standards for advancement, while fostering work environments that support research integrity.
- 15. Societal Considerations:** Researchers and research institutions should recognize that they have an ethical obligation to weigh societal benefits against risks inherent in their work.

Adapted from the The Singapore Statement on Research Integrity - which was developed as a global guide to the responsible conduct of research by the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, 2010, in Singapore.

Research Students need to know their responsibilities as a researcher. The **School of Postgraduate Studies** runs training workshops on Research Ethics and Integrity every year. For more information visit:

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