

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: Researchers should take responsibility for the trustworthiness of their research.

2. Adherence to Regulations: Researchers should be aware of and adhere to regulations and policies related to research.

3. Research Methods: Researchers should employ appropriate research methods, base conclusions on critical analysis of the evidence and report findings and interpretations fully and objectively.

4. Research Ethics: Researchers should be aware of their ethical obligations and ensure that all research is carried out with the utmost respect for human or animal participants

4. Research Records: Researchers should keep clear, accurate records of all research in ways that will allow verification and replication of their work by others.

5. Research Findings: Researchers should share data and findings openly and promptly, as soon as they have had an opportunity to establish priority and ownership claims.

6. Authorship: Researchers should take responsibility for their contributions to all publications, funding applications, reports and other representations of their research. Lists of authors should include all those and only those who meet applicable authorship criteria.

7. Publication Acknowledgement: Researchers should acknowledge in publications the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to the research but do not meet authorship criteria.

8. Peer Review: Researchers should provide fair, prompt and rigorous evaluations and respect confidentiality when reviewing others' work.

9. Conflict of Interest: Researchers should disclose financial and other conflicts of interest that could compromise the trustworthiness of their work in research proposals, publications

and public communications as well as in all review activities.

10. Public Communication: Researchers 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.

11. Reporting Irresponsible Research Practices: Researchers 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. For details on reporting procedures see

12. Responding to Irresponsible Research Practices: RCSI has procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct and other irresponsible research practices and for protecting those who report such behavior in good faith. If misconduct or other irresponsible research practice is confirmed, appropriate actions will be taken promptly, including correcting the research record.

13. 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.

14. Societal Considerations: Researchers and research institutions should recognize that they have an ethical obligation to weigh societal benefits against risks inherent in their work.