

SACRED HEART COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), TIRUPATTUR

INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

PROCEEDINGS OF ETHICS COMMITTEE

Code of Ethics for Research

Institutional Ethics Committees (IECs) play a crucial role in ensuring ethical standards are upheld in research and various activities in different areas. These committees often have their own code of ethics or guidelines to follow. Below, I'll provide a general template for a code of ethics that an IEC can adopt or adapt according to their specific needs and focus areas:

- (i) All Faculty members and students pursuing research in the college are expected to maintain high standards of integrity, honesty and professionalism in respect of all the work undertaken by them.
- (ii) The college follows the regulations of Thiruvalluvar University and UGC regarding plagiarism and malpractice in research.

The violation of scholarly conduct and ethical behaviour in the publication of professional scientific research is referred to as scientific misconduct. These include all acts ranging from the inception of an idea to its experimental validation, the accuracy of results, accurate reporting without resorting to any malpractice in the presentation of data/images, and the proper acknowledgement of all sources of information and people. Against this backdrop, this document provides an explicit list of acts that constitute scientific misconduct to all individuals working in the institution. Scientific misconduct can take many forms and occur at various stages, from the start of a scientific study to publication and/or patent generation. While these involve violations of generally accepted research practices, unintentional errors, or genuine differences in research methods,

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Embezzlement of ideas: Claiming ownership of an idea obtained through privileged access while reviewing manuscripts, grant proposals, or participation in lectures, personal discussions,

and previous publications (but not citing them). This also includes acts in which someone else's ideas are presented as one's own through minor changes in words, phrases, and illustrations.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's words, results, or published work without proper citation. This includes using one's own published work without proper disclosure/citations (self-plagiarism).

Falsification: The misrepresentation, suppression, or addition of a portion of data in order to produce cherry-picked results, or the improper reporting of results in order to present a misleading outcome.

Fabrication: Fabrication is the practice of reporting 'results' of experiments that were never carried out. This includes morphing images/photographs to achieve a specific/desired interpretation.

Fraud: Deliberate suppression of previous work in publications while claiming inappropriate originality and/or avoiding quoting previous publications that contradict current results.

Non-compliance with Regulatory Guidelines: Willful violation of accepted ethical guidelines for human and animal research, non-compliance with bio-safety regulations, or inappropriate use of research funds.

Inappropriate Authorship: It is improper to exclude genuine contributors from authorship, including non-contributors, or to claim authorship for oneself without having made any meaningful contribution. In cases of publication of work completed during a Ph.D. thesis, the thesis Supervisor should take care to ensure that a student's scientific contributions are not diluted or exaggerated.

Withholding data from validation: Failure to provide data or research materials to the institute/journal for verification/validation.

Wrong versus Fraudulent paper: It is not uncommon for a conclusion drawn in an earlier publication to be refuted, modified, or shown to be incorrect—either by the same author or by others. This is how science advances. As a result, the earlier paper is not fraudulent.

Code of Ethics (Animal and Bio - Ethics)

Introduction:

Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Tirupattur, Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) is committed to promoting and upholding the highest ethical standards in research, experimentation, and activities related to animals, chemicals, bio-ethics, and other domains. This Code of Ethics serves as a guiding document for IEC members and outlines the fundamental principles and responsibilities that govern our actions.

Principles:

Respect for Animal Dignity:

IEC members shall respect the inherent dignity, rights, and welfare of all human and animal subjects involved in research and experimentation.

Beneficence:

IEC members shall prioritize the well-being and safety of human and animal subjects, ensuring that research and activities contribute to the greater good of society.

Non-Maleficence:

IEC members shall minimize harm to human and animal subjects and strive to prevent any unnecessary suffering.

Justice and Fairness:

IEC members shall ensure the fair distribution of benefits and burdens, avoiding discrimination and undue exploitation.

Transparency and Accountability:

IEC members shall maintain transparency in decision-making processes and be accountable for their actions, ensuring that ethical standards are upheld.

Responsibilities:

Review and Approval:

IEC members shall diligently review research proposals, experiments, and activities to ensure they comply with ethical standards.

Informed Consent:

IEC members shall ensure that informed consent is obtained from human subjects, and appropriate protocols are followed for the care and use of animals.

Oversight and Monitoring:

IEC members shall regularly monitor ongoing research and activities to ensure compliance with ethical guidelines and applicable laws and regulations.

Education and Training:

IEC members shall promote ethical awareness and provide training and guidance to researchers, students, and staff.

Confidentiality:

IEC members shall maintain strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information related to research, subjects, and committee deliberations.

Compliance and Enforcement:

IEC members shall report any ethical violations promptly and impartially, and appropriate actions shall be taken to address non-compliance.

Continuous Improvement:

IEC members shall strive for continuous improvement in ethical practices and stay updated on relevant laws, regulations, and best practices.

The Institutional Ethics Committee is dedicated to upholding the principles of this Code of Ethics (Animal and Bio - Ethics) in all its activities. By adhering to these principles and fulfilling our responsibilities, we contribute to the advancement of ethical research and practices in our institution and the broader community. It's essential to align the code of ethics periodically with applicable national and international regulations and guidelines related to animal research, bio-ethics, or any other specific areas of focus for the committee.

Code of Ethics - Chemical

The Chemical Code of Ethics is designed to promote ethical conduct and responsible practices in all aspects of chemical research, production, and application. It is intended to guide individuals and organizations involved in chemical activities toward upholding the highest standards of safety, environmental responsibility, and ethical behaviour.

Principles:

1. Safety and Health:
 - Prioritize the safety and well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment in all chemical-related activities.
 - Adhere to established safety protocols and standards to prevent accidents and minimize health risks.
2. Environmental Responsibility:
 - Minimize the environmental impact of chemical processes and products.
 - Strive to reduce waste, emissions, and the use of hazardous materials.
3. Integrity and Honesty:
 - Conduct research and reporting with integrity, honesty, and transparency.

- Avoid falsification, fabrication, plagiarism, and other forms of scientific misconduct.
4. Responsible Research and Innovation:
 - Conduct research that contributes to the advancement of knowledge and societal well-being.
 - Consider ethical, social, and environmental implications of research outcomes.
 5. Ethical Sourcing and Supply Chain:
 - Ensure the ethical sourcing of raw materials and chemicals.
 - Promote ethical practices in the supply chain, including fair labour and fair-trade principles.
 6. Community Engagement:
 - Engage with local communities and stakeholders to address concerns related to chemical activities.
 - Promote transparency and open communication with affected parties.
 7. Regulatory Compliance:
 - Comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and international conventions related to chemical activities.
 - Seek necessary permits and approvals.

Responsibilities:

1. Education and Training:
 - Provide employees, researchers, and students with appropriate training in chemical safety and ethical conduct.
 - Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement.
2. Risk Assessment and Management:
 - Conduct thorough risk assessments for chemical processes and activities.
 - Implement risk management strategies to minimize hazards and mitigate potential harm.
3. Waste Management and Disposal:
 - Dispose of chemical waste in accordance with applicable regulations and best practices.
 - Promote recycling and responsible disposal methods.
4. Ethical Decision-Making:
 - Encourage ethical decision-making in all aspects of chemical research, production, and application.

- Provide guidance and support for ethical dilemmas and conflicts.


Compliance and Enforcement:

1. Violations of this Code of Ethics will be investigated promptly and impartially.
2. Appropriate actions, including disciplinary measures, will be taken in response to violations.

Continuous Improvement:

1. Regularly review and update this Code of Ethics to reflect evolving ethical standards and scientific knowledge.
2. Embrace new technologies and practices that promote the responsible and ethical use of chemicals.

The Chemical Code of Ethics serves as a foundation for ethical behaviour and responsible practices in the field of chemistry. By adhering to these principles and fulfilling our responsibilities, we contribute to a safer, more sustainable, and ethically sound chemical industry and research community. This code of ethics should be tailored to the specific needs and focus areas of the organization or institution involved in chemical activities. Additionally, it's important to align the code of ethics with relevant industry standards and regulations.


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