



## **AIFO / ITALY RESEARCH ETHICS**

### **BASIC VALUES FOR JUDGING THE ETHICS OF A RESEARCH**

#### **Honesty**

Strive for honesty in all scientific communications. Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data. Do not deceive colleagues, granting organisations, or the public.

#### **Objectivity**

Strive to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review, personnel decisions, grant writing, expert testimony, and other aspects of research where objectivity is expected or required. Avoid or minimize bias or self-deception. Disclose personal or financial interests that may affect research.

#### **Integrity**

Keep your promises and agreements; act with sincerity; strive for consistency of thought and action.

#### **Carefulness**

Avoid careless errors and negligence; carefully and critically examine your own work and the work of your peers. Keep good records of research activities, such as data collection, research design, and correspondence with agencies or journals.

#### **Openness**

Share data, results, ideas, tools, resources. Be open to criticism and new ideas.

#### **Respect for Intellectual Property**

Honour patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give credit where credit is due. Give proper acknowledgement or credit for all contributions to research. Never plagiarize.

## **Confidentiality**

Protect confidential communications, such as papers or grants submitted for publication, personnel records, and patient records.

## **Responsible Publication**

Publish in order to advance research and scholarship, not to advance just your own career. Avoid wasteful and duplicative publication.

## **Responsible Mentoring**

Help to educate, mentor, and advise students. Promote their welfare and allow them to make their own decisions.

## **Respect for colleagues**

Respect your colleagues and treat them fairly.

## **Social Responsibility**

Strive to promote social good and prevent or mitigate social harms through research, public education, and advocacy.

## **Non-Discrimination**

Ensure there is no discrimination against colleagues or students on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, disability or other factors that are not related to their scientific competence and integrity.

## **Competence**

Maintain and improve your own professional competence and expertise through lifelong education and learning; take steps to promote competence in science as a whole.

## **Legality**

Know and obey relevant laws and institutional and governmental policies.

## **Animal Care**

Show proper respect and care for animals when using them in research. Do not conduct unnecessary or poorly designed animal experiments.

## **Human Subjects Protection**

- When conducting research on human subjects, minimize harms and risks and maximize benefits;
- respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy;
- take special precautions with vulnerable populations;
- strive to distribute the benefits and burdens of research fairly;

- ensure there is informed consent from all research participants;
- all participants in a research initiative must receive some direct benefit from AIFO's activities;
- and, ensure that persons who do not wish to participate in any research, do not face any negative consequences for their non-participation in any activity.

(Adapted from Shamoo A and Resnik D. 2009. *Responsible Conduct of Research, 2nd ed.* New York: Oxford University Press).