AMALA COLLEGE OF NURSING

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR

RESEARCHERS

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AMALA COLLEGE OF NURSING
AMALA NAGAR P.O., THRISSUR-680 555

AMALA COLLEGE OF NURSING

(An undertaking of Amala Cancer Hospital Society)
Amala Nagar P.O., Thrissur-680 555, Kerala, India.

Code of conduct adopted as per ICMR Guidelines

Preamble

Bioethics has emerged as a new discipline over the past couple of decades and is poised to become a multidisciplinary specialty. Institutional review boards/Institutional ethics committees have evolved as conscience keepers of professionals with the view to safeguard the welfare of members of society against any possible harm from scientific advances. Bioethical discussions and debates provide perspectives on the relevance of new as well as existing processes to human values, enabling appropriate decisions by the different stakeholders.

Advances in laboratory technologies in the recent times have created new and complex ethical dilemmas in their wake. Research personnel working in clinical and/or research laboratories should be aware of their ethical responsibilities. It is necessary to comply with the ethical code of conduct prescribed by national and international organizations, and address the emerging ethical, legal and social concerns in the field of biological and biomedical sciences. The basic principles enshrined in the codes and guidelines followed by different countries are:

1. Autonomy–Respect for persons including informed consent, privacy and confidentiality
2. Beneficence–Fruitful result, Do good
3. Non- Malfeasance –Do node liberate harm
4. Justice–Ensure equitable distribution of risks and benefits

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The scientists engaged in research activities should be aware of the potential risks and concerns relating to science and its wider applications and the ethical responsibilities they shoulder. They should not only be aware of but comply with the requirements of international conventions and treaties relevant to their research work. The Indian Council of Medical Research has a long standing interest in ethics in biomedical research. It had brought out in February 1980, a document entitled, "Policy statement on ethical considerations involved in research on human subjects". This has now been updated and published as "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Subjects", 2000, and subsequently updated as "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Participants" in 2006, and ICMR is assisting Department of Health Research, MOH&FW in the process of its enactment as a Bill.

Aim

The aim of the code of conduct for scientists is to ensure that all research activities involving micro bailer other biological agents, or toxins whatever their origin or method of production, are only of types and in quantities that have justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes.

In considering whether this aim is best achieved by something called a code of conduct or a code of practice, it is important to recognize that there are general perceptions relating to these two terms. There is a broad appreciation that a code of conduct is something to which individuals aspire as an objective but actual practice may fall short of that objective.

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Code of Conduct

In order to prevent the use of scientific research for purposes of bioterrorism or bio-warfare, all persons and institutions engaged in all aspects of scientific research should abide by this code of conduct which are governed by the following principles:

1. **Principles of non-malfeasance** whereby, it is ensured that the discoveries of biomedical research scientists and knowledge generated do no harm to humans, animals, plants and environment.

    1. By refraining to engage in any research that is intended or likely to facilitate, bio-terrorism or bio-warfare, and
    2. By not contributing to the development, production or acquisition of microbial or other biological agents or toxins, whatever their origin or method of production, of types and/or in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective, therapeutic, or other peaceful purposes.
    3. By taking due precautions to protect self and others from any harmful effects and reporting immediately to concerned authorities if any unto ward incident happens or likely to happen.

2. **Principles of beneficence** whereby, it is ensured that legitimate benefits are being sought and that they out-weigh the risks and harms. The scientists work for the ethical and beneficent advancement, development and use of scientific knowledge;

3. **Principles of risk minimization** whereby, due care and caution is to be taken to restrict the dual use information and knowledge to those who need to know. In case there are serious risks that information or knowledge, intentional or non-intentional, could be readily misused to inflict serious harm through bio-terrorism or bio-warfare, bring them to the attention of the appropriate persons/authorities.

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4. **Principle of Confidentiality** whereby, the scientists uphold the basic principle of maintaining all such information highly confidential and reveal it to only legitimate individuals or organizations under a contract agreement as prescribed by law.

5. **Principle of Ethical review** whereby, all relevant research activities are subjected to ethics and safety. Reviews and monitoring to establish their ethical acceptability and if human or animal subjects are involved, to ensure that such involvement is ethical and essential for carrying out highly important research only for the benefit of the society.

6. **Principles of transmission of ethical values** whereby (the duties and obligations embodied in this code), the ethical principles upon which it is based are transmitted faithfully to all who are, or may become, engaged in the conduct of such scientific research.

7. **Principles of voluntariness** whereby, researchers are fully apprised of the research, the impact and risk of such research, and whereby scientists retain the right to abstain from further participation in research that they consider ethically or morally objectionable.

8. **Principles of compliance** whereby, scientists abide by laws and regulations that apply to the conduct of science, duties, and obligations embodied in this code and disseminate the same to all concerned.

9. **Principles of institutional arrangements** whereby, appropriate care is taken to ensure that all procedures are required to become plied with and all institutional arrangements are made to assure bio-safety and bio security. Access (which should be in a transparent manner) is allowed to biologicalagentsthatcouldbeusedasbiologicalweaponsonlytobona fidescientistswho shall not misuse them and whose work can be monitored by their institutions

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10. **Principles of totality of responsibility** whereby, the professional and moral responsibility, for the due observance of all the principles, guidelines or prescriptions laid down generally or in respect of the research or experiment in question devolves on all those directly or indirectly connected with the research or experiment. Such research shall be duly monitored and constantly be subjected to review and remedial action at all stages of the research and experiment for its present and future use.

11. **Principles of research integrity** whereby, scientists are expected to adhere to highest professional standards in proposing, doing and reporting of research results to ensure reproducibility. The proposing and conduct of research should be done with due regard to accepted global professional codes, norms and guidelines be sides adhering to the national and, wherever applicable, international rules and regulations. During the conduct of research, data should be collected, collated, analyzed and reported with honesty and integrity. During publication, unethical practices as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism etc. should be avoided and appropriate credit be given to collaborators who have contributed to the Intellectual content of research being reported as reflected in the authorship of manuscripts sent for publication. The interests of young scientists should be especially protected while according credit and they should also be provided appropriate guidance and imparted with the value system of research.

Ethical considerations in this Code of Conduct, would be binding on all laboratory scientists involved in scientific research concerning dangerous organisms and toxic weapons against any living being or environment.

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Code of Conduct for responsible Research outlines staff responsibility in the following areas:

1. Research standards
2. Research training and supervision
3. Conflict of interest and bias
4. Managing collaboration in research
5. Financial management of research
6. Quality management in research
7. Managing and monitoring research data
8. Peer review
9. Intellectual property and authorship
10. Publication and dissemination of research findings

Misconduct – any improper action by a staff member that brings the Organization in to public discredit; any improper use or attempt to make use of his position as an official for his personal advantage; any conduct contrary to the terms of his oath or declaration.

The term misconduct means intentional, knowing or reckless fraudulent behaviour such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism misrepresentation or other practices that deviate from the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Research.

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDES:

1. Inappropriate development of research protocols.
2. Failure to disclose or take action on declared conflict of interest.
3. Inadequate management of a research project.
4. Fabrication of data – deliberate creation, recording and reporting of nonexistent results.
5. Falsification–deliberate manipulation of data to change, or omit data.

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6. Sabotage – intentionally damaging, destroying, obstructing or otherwise harming are search project.
7. Plagiarism – the copying of ideas, data or text (or various combinations of the three) without authorization or acknowledgement.
8. Piracy – the deliberate exploitation of data from others without authorization.
9. Conducting research in a manner which contravenes the terms of approval granted by WHO or by other relevant bodies and accepted by WHO as governing the conduct of the research in question.
10. Conducting research for which WHO requires prior approvals (for instance from national authorities) without having failed to secure those approvals.

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Name of Institute……..

UNDERTAKING

I have carefully read the guidelines on Code of Conduct for research in the field of Life Sciences and taken note of the principles and ethical considerations in this Code of conduct. I agree to abide by them during the conduct of the scientific/research activities being undertaken by me.

Name of Researcher	**Signature with Date**
1……	……
2……	……
3……	……
4……	……

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