

GURU NANAK INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Affiliated to West Bengal University of Health Sciences & Research, Kolkata)



CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCH

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Approved at :

Institutional Ethics Committee Meeting Dated 11th July , 2017 vide Circular Gn/Admin/17/352

Board of Governors Meeting Dated 4th September 2017 Vide Circular Gn/Admin/17/456

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1 Code of Ethics for Research & Publication Guidelines

Scientific research involves the cooperation and coordination of different people to achieve goals that have impact on society and are essential for overall development in all areas. Research requires experimentation, data analysis, writing research papers and grant proposals and educating future scientists. Thus, it is essential that research is carried out in ways that are ethically correct. Research at Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences & Research (GNIDSR) is conducted according to the principles of integrity, academic excellence, accountability, inclusiveness and professionalism. Guidelines for research ethics are laid in such a way that concerns of research institutions and individuals are simultaneously addressed. Also, it is important to adhere to these ethical guidelines in order to preserve the dignity, rights and welfare of researchers and research participants.

This code of ethics for research applies to all the faculty, students and visiting researchers of the Institute, including person holding honorary appointments and students on placements, who conduct research within or on behalf of the institute.

This document forms the basis for formulating and implementing policies and regulations of research activities in the College. It is also the guidance document for the practice of research by the faculty, research students, alumni and learners in the College.

Based on area of research and subjects involved, guidelines for carrying research has been defined by various agencies. These guidelines can be found on website of various government agencies. All the researchers at Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences & Research (GNIDSR) are expected to follow the Ethics of research as described in the guidelines. A Dental Surgeon may carry out, participate in, and work in research projects funded by pharmaceutical and allied healthcare industries. A Dental Surgeon is obliged to know that the fulfilment of the following items of this document, Revised Dentists Code of Ethics Regulations, 2012] will be an imperative for undertaking any research assignment/project funded by industry - for being proper and ethical. Thus, in accepting such a position a Dental surgeon shall:

- Ensure that the particular research proposal(s) has the due permission from the competent concerned authorities.
- Ensure that such a research project(s) has the clearance of national/state/institutional ethics committees/bodies.
- Ensure that it fulfils all the legal requirements prescribed for medical research.
- Ensure that the source and amount of funding is publicly disclosed at the beginning itself.
- Ensure that proper care and facilities are provided to human volunteers, if they are necessary for the research project.

- Ensure that undue animal experimentations are not done and when these are necessary they are done in a scientific and a humane way.
- Ensure that while accepting such an assignment a Dental Surgeon shall have the freedom to publish the results of the research in the greater interest of the society by inserting such a clause in the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) or any other document / agreement for any such assignment.

Some of the guidelines followed by the Institutional Ethics

Committee are given below:

1.1 Biomedical Research on Human Participants:

The Nuremberg Code formulated in 1947, was the first international statement on ethics of medical research using human subjects. Over the years, various international and national advisory bodies have revised and laid down principles for scientific research involving human beings. Clinical research is required for better understanding of science and developing drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, instruments and materials which can enhance quality of human health. However, it is important to give credit to individuals who volunteer to participate in biomedical research. To protect the interest of participants in biomedical research, ethical guidelines are established. In India, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Govt. of India, sets ethical guidelines for biomedical research involving human participants.

Research on human subjects follows the principles of essentiality of the research, voluntariness, informed consent, non-exploitation, confidentiality, accountability and transparency.

The guidelines can be found at:

- a) https://www.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/guidelines/ICMR_Ethical_Guidelines_2017.pdf
- b) https://www.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/guidelines/National_Ethical_Guidelines_for_BioMedical_Research_Involving_Children_0.pdf

- **Working with Chemicals:** The Bureau of Indian Standards, Govt. of India, recommends a code of safety for all chemical laboratories in India. It involves guidelines for recognizing potential chemical hazards and employing corrective actions in order to expeditiously minimize accidents. Every researcher at GNIDSR is expected to follow the guidelines especially with the hazardous chemicals. Details can be found at:

https://images10.newegg.com/UploadFilesForNewegg/itemintelligence/Pacon/is_4209.19871453376681588.pdf

- **Radiation Safety:** These guidelines set by the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India, apply to practices adopted and interventions applied while working with radiation sources in Indian laboratories. They ensure that the ionizing radiation and nuclear energy does not cause any risk to the health of

researcher and the environment. Close monitoring by institutional radiation safety committee helps in ensuring compliance to these guidelines so that the exposure to all sources of ionizing radiation should be 'as low as reasonably achievable'.

<https://www.aerb.gov.in/index.php/english/regulatory-facilities/radiation-facilities/application-in-medicine/nuclear-medicine1>

- **Recombinant DNA Technology and Bio-contaminants:** Recombinant DNA technology is the most popular method of introducing gene or related material in microorganism, plants and animals. Department of Biotechnology has given guidelines for research work in this area. The details can be found at:

www.dbtindia.nic.in/.../Draft-Biosafety-Regulations-and- Biocontainment-Guidelines-2017

1.2 Role of Institutional Ethics Committee:

The basic responsibility of an Institutional Ethics Committee is to ensure a competent review of all ethical aspects of the project proposals received and execute the same free from any bias and influence that could affect their objectivity. IEC should provide advice to the researchers on all aspects of welfare and safety of the research participants after ensuring the scientific soundness of the proposed research through appropriate Scientific Review Committees.

Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) of Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences & Research (GNIDSR), Kolkata, and West Bengal, India is a multidisciplinary and multisectorial body in composition and independent. The number of members of the IEC-GNIDSR is Eleven. It is compatible with all the provisions of the Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1940 and the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules 2019, current Ethical guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Participants by current ICMR guidelines to ensure its independence and competence.

Primary functions of IEC-GNIDSR are as follows:

- Reviewing the project proposals and other relevant documents submitted for ethical review and approval.
- Maintaining records of the activities such as agenda, minutes of the meeting etc.
- Adhering to the applicable regulatory requirements.
- Complying with the GCP guidelines.
- Training the IEC members in regulations and guidelines for the review of Clinical Trials and other Clinical Research studies.
- Monitoring of the sites to which IEC accords approval.

The meeting of the IEC-GNIDSR is held on periodic intervals, unless otherwise specified by the member secretary. Additional review meetings can also be held with short notice as and when required. Meetings are planned in accordance with the need of the work load.

The IEC's member-secretary or secretariat screen the proposals for their completeness and depending on the risk involved categorize them into three types, namely, exemption from review, expedited review and full review.

Decisions are taken by consensus after discussion, and whenever needed voting is done. Decision of the Chairperson is final.

All the approvals will be valid for three years or for the duration of the project whichever is less. Investigator has to get his or her project re-approved after three years if necessary.

As of now, there are no fees for processing of academic research proposal. All research proposals/clinical trials funded/sponsored by Pharmaceutical companies/ Agencies/ Multinationals etc. are charged a reasonable administrative fee/ processing fee.

1.3 Malpractice

Malpractice has different shades such as 'misconduct', 'unprofessional contact', illegal instances, improper things, mismanagement, negligence and the like in the personal conduct/research work/ publications and data thereto either or both of the researcher and guide and also the institution concerned in their research pursuits. Misconduct could include any kind of favouritism/bias/misdeed, 'unprofessional contact' could include unethical, unprincipled, dishonourable, immoral, cruel or crude actions/ behaviours/ characters in exhibit by any one- the guide or scholar or

both. Illegal instances are patently legally void or voidable. Improper things could include or may relate to data/data source/tools/analysis/reporting- intentional or inadvertent and the like that are of doubtful character or somewhat offending type without authenticity, or so. Mismanagement could relate to resource deployment including funds and include inefficiency in schedule/place/pace of execution and the like. Negligence is either inadvertent behaviour or lack of concentration causing resource (people/product/process/facilities) loss or damage. Malpractice has the other dimensionality- scale. Though a minimal tolerance for unintentional malpractices is humane, repeated indulgences will invite punitive reform.

1.4 Plagiarism

Plagiarism with the alternative terminologies having more or less same meaning, viz., copying, stealing, lifting, and paraphrasing is punishable offence if proved. Plagiarism indulgences in effect result in presenting someone else's work, revelation, findings or ideas as one's own work/ revelation/ findings/ ideas either with or without the original author's consent. Even if the original author permits another to use the former's work/ revelation/ findings/ idea as that of the latter, it is plagiarism; it is offence akin to impersonation. But quoting appropriately the work or ideas of the original researcher is not plagiarism, subject to, however, copy-right violation if any. The *West Bengal University of Health Sciences*' regulations for examinations place all malpractices/plagiarism issues as disciplinary offences subjected to designated punitive/corrective measures after due process of fact ascertainment and pronouncement of action by duly appointed high-power

committees to uphold University's highest commitment to Ethics to Check Malpractices and Plagiarism in Research.

1.5 Publication Guidelines:

As research publications in refereed journals of international importance not only improve the individual's image but also of the institution, every faculty member should strive to bring out such quality publications.

According to the UGC guidelines and on the interests of Guru Nanak Institute of Dental Sciences & Research (GNIDSR) academic publishing and the credibility of our research and knowledge production, the GNIDSR reiterates the following:

1. All the faculty members and students of GNIDSR should only consider their research publication from the journals indexed in UGC-CARE List, SCOPUS List, Pub Med List, "Web of Science" List.
2. The Principal, Selection Committee, Screening Committees, research supervisors and all/any expert(s) involved in academic/ performance evaluation and assessment ensure that their decisions in the case of selections, promotions, credit-allotment, award of research degree etc. must be based on the quality of published work rather than just numbers or a mere presence in peer reviewed or in old UGC approved List of Journals which is available for reference on the UGC website.

3. All the authors should acknowledge the GNIDSR college authority for providing infrastructural support and utilization of fund, if any. Institutional address should be mentioned for any kind of publication related correspondence.
4. Depending upon the research content, the faculty member may also present papers in International/National level conferences, but the impact they command compared to publications in refereed journals is considered much less.
5. Faculty member should also take efforts to bring out his/her research work other than refereed journal papers, in the form of books or chapters in the books published by the international/National level publishers with ISBN/ISSN numbers.
6. The effort of the faculty member must be to convert his/her creative idea into a product either physical or conceptual. In order to get recognition not only for the faculty, but also, for the institution, he/she should take efforts to obtain Patent/Intellectual Property Right (IPR) so that nobody could copy them.
7. Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) clearance certificate is necessary prior to any research paper publication/presentation from GNIDSR.

1.6 Jurisdiction:-

All offences including criminal offences will be dealt within the jurisdiction of the courts of Kolkata.