SRM
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

SRM Institute of Science and Technology

SRM Nagar, Kattankulathur 603203, Tamil Nadu, India

INSTITUTIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCH

Registrar
SRM Institute of Science and Technology
SRM Nagar, Kattankulathur - 603 203
Chengalpattu Dist. Tamilnadu, India.

INSTITUTIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCH

1. Preamble:

SRMIST provides an adequate structure to promote and promulgate good research practices, emphasizing integrity and rigor in research and expects that the researchers adhere to the highest standards of integrity. Researchers should be ethical and honest to their own course of actions while pursuing research and their responses to the actions of other researchers. This applies to the whole range of research activities including designing of experiments, generating and analyzing data, publishing results, reviewing the work of other researchers and applying for grants.

2. Best Practices in Research:

SRMIST strives in particular:

(i)   *Honesty* in all aspects of research, including in the presentation of research goals, intentions and findings; in reporting on research methods and procedures; in gathering data; in using and acknowledging the work of other researchers; and in conveying valid interpretations and making justifiable claims based on research findings.

(ii) *Rigor* in line with prevailing disciplinary norms and standards: in performing research and using appropriate methods; in adhering to an agreed protocol where appropriate; in drawing interpretations and conclusions from the research; and in communicating the results.

(iii) *Transparency and open communication* in declaring potential competing interests; in the reporting of research data collection methods; in the analysis and interpretation of data; in making research findings widely available, which includes publishing or otherwise sharing negative or null results to recognize their value as part of the research process; and in presenting the work to other researchers and to the public.

(iv) *Care and respect* for all participants in research, and for the participants in, and users and beneficiaries of research, including humans, animals, the environment and cultural objects. Those engaged with research must also show care and respect for the integrity of the research record.

(v)   *Accountability* of funders, employers and researchers to collectively create research environment in which individuals and organization are empowered and enabled to own the research process.

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3. Implementation:

A. Inclusion of research ethics in the research methodology course work

	Instructional objectives	Outcomes
1.	To understand the philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity and publication ethics.	At the end of the course the researcher will have awareness about the publication ethics and publication misconducts.
2.	To identify research misconduct and predatory publications.	
3.	To understand indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, impact Factor, etc.).	
4.	To understand the usage of plagiarism tools.	

B. Presence of Institutional Ethics Committees

(i)   Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC)

IEC is a committee comprising of medical, scientific, non-medical and non-scientific members, whose responsibility is to ensure the protection of the rights, safety and well-being of human subjects involved in a clinical trial and it shall be responsible for reviewing and approving the protocol, the suitability of the investigators, facilities, methods and adequacy of information to be used for obtaining and documenting informed consent of the study subjects and adequacy of confidentiality safeguards. .

In addition, as recommended in the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines, the basic responsibility of the IEC is "to ensure a competent review of all ethical aspects of the project proposals received by it in an objective manner" (ICMR 2006, p 8). The IEC conducts regular meetings for reviewing the research proposals and give suggestions to the investigators to make their research ethical before approving them.

(ii)   Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC)

All experimental protocols involving the use of animals are reviewed by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) constituted as per the article number 13 of the CPCSEA (Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals, http://cpcsea.nic.in) rules, laid down by Government of India.

No animal research should be carried out without IAEC approval. IAECs consider and evaluate research applications on the basis of research questions, justification for the research, impact on the animals, and procedures for preventing or alleviating pain and distress.

IAEC reviews and approves all research proposals involving small laboratory animals such as rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs and rabbits with an objective to assure quality maintenance and welfare of animals used in pre- clinical research. For experiments on higher animals, the IAEC will forward its recommendation to the CPCSEA, New Delhi, for its approval process.

(iii) Institutional Bio Safety Committee (IBSC)

Institutional Bio Safety Committee is constituted for handling hazardous microorganisms and /or Genetically Engineered (GE) Organisms. The IBSC provides recommendations to the intramural community in matters pertaining to the control of biohazards associated with the use of microbiological agents and their vectors. It also represents the interests of the surrounding community with respect to public health and protection of the environment.

The constitution, composition, role and functions, information for compliance requirements, processes are followed while dealing with hazardous microorganisms, GE organisms or cells and product thereof in line with Rules 1989 is described in "Guidelines and Handbook for Institutional Biosafety Committee".

(iv) Chemical Waste Disposal Committee (CWDC)

Any hazardous waste generated on campus must be managed and disposed of under the criteria and procedure outlined in the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, published under the notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

SRMIST Chemical and Hazardous Waste Management and Disposal Policy adheres to the principles of the 'best practicable environmental option' involving a two-tier approach to prevention and control of environmental pollution. The Institute implements a "waste hierarchical approach" that prioritises hazardous waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery over chemical waste disposal.

The Chemical Waste Disposal Committee shall oversee/conduct inspections to determine adherence to this policy and other pertinent safety policies, procedures, and practices.

C. Plagiarism Check

Plagiarism is defined as presenting another person's work as one's own work. Presentation includes copying or reproducing it without the acknowledgement of the source. Plagiarism involves copying of: phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or longer extracts from published or unpublished work (including from the Internet) that exceeds the boundaries of the legitimate cooperation without acknowledgement of the source.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology deploys **Turnitin Anti Plagiarism Tool** to detect plagiarism. Turnitin is plagiarism detection software that scans student work for matched text by comparing the work to a large database of student work, publications, and materials on the

internet. It identifies unoriginal work instantly by comparing student submissions against the world's largest collection of internets, academic, and student paper content.

D. Publication Guidelines Oversight Committee

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) promotes high-quality research leading to publications and patents of high standard. In order to maintain the standard in Publications and Patents, SRMIST has constituted a Publication Guidelines Oversight Committee.

The committee will oversee the implementation of UGC Regulations to promote Academic Integrity and prevent Plagiarism in Higher Education. This committee will also play an advisory role to facilitate compliance to essential ethical practices to all concerned in publications. Ethical oversight should include, but is not limited to, policies on consent to publication, ethical conduct of research using animals, ethical conduct of research using human subjects, handling confidential data and ethical business/marketing practices.

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