

Code of Good Research Practice

Richmond Research Institute expects its researchers to adhere to the highest standards of integrity in research.

This statement addresses the issues involved in the proper conduct of research and provides guidance on the standards expected.

Integrity and honesty

Researchers should be honest and ethical in respect of their own actions in research and their responses to the actions of other researchers. This applies to the whole range of research work, including experimental design, generating and analysing data, acting as a reviewer or referee on grant applications or research papers etc, applying for funding, publishing results, and acknowledging the direct and indirect contributions of colleagues, collaborators and others.

Plagiarism, deception or the fabrication or falsification of results, is regarded by the Institute as a serious disciplinary offence.

Research Misconduct

The Institute takes seriously any allegation of research misconduct and will investigate such allegations.

Researchers are encouraged to report cases of research misconduct and to do so in a responsible and appropriate manner.

Leadership and cooperation in research groups

All Institute researchers and other senior staff are responsible for creating a climate and capacity which ensures that research is conducted in accordance with good research practice.

Openness

The Institute encourages researchers to be as open as possible in discussing their work with other researchers, and with the public. The Institute recognises that this needs to be balanced with protecting their research interests in the early phases of research work such as planning, execution and pre-publication. Researchers are encouraged to publish their research and disseminate the findings as soon as possible.

Guidance from professional bodies

Researchers are expected to observe the standards of research practice set out in guidelines published by funding bodies, scientific and learned societies and other relevant professional bodies.

All researchers should be aware of, and comply with, the legal requirements which regulate their work.

Ethical Approval

All research conducted by the Institute must be carried out in accordance with appropriate Ethical Review requirements.

If material differences are made to the research protocol, then further ethical approval should be sought where appropriate.

Documenting results and storing primary data

Researchers should keep clear and accurate records of the procedure followed and the approvals granted during the research process, including records of the interim results obtained as well as the final research outcomes. This is necessary not only as a means of demonstrating proper research practice, but also in case questions are subsequently asked about either the conduct of the research or the results obtained.

The Institute expects its researchers to comply with legal data protection requirements that regulate their work.

Collaborations

The contributions of formal collaborators and all others who directly assist or indirectly support the work should be properly acknowledged.

Researchers should be satisfied that standards and procedures at the organisations with which they are collaborating are suitable for the conduct of the research.

Conflict of Interest

Researchers should declare and manage any real or potential conflicts of interest both financial and professional.

Updated 21 September 2020