



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

HEALTH RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR CODE OF CONDUCT OF HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCHERS

1. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version No	Reason for revision
11 July 2018	1	Newly formulated
31 January 2022	2	Updated

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe and explain the code of conduct that is applicable to all UFH health-related researchers.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UFH HREC

As a researcher in health at UFH, I subscribe to the rules of the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) and Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC), all applicable policies of UFH, and all national and international laws and regulations applicable to my field of study. Furthermore, I commit myself to abide by the ethical principles and responsibilities as set out in the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity (22 September 2010) in any research endeavours that I undertake in health-related research at UFH.

I commit as follows:

1. I will take responsibility for the originality and trustworthiness of my research.
2. I will stay abreast of and adhere to all institutional, national, and international laws, regulations, and policies applicable and related to my research.
3. I will at all times employ appropriate research methods, base my conclusions on critical analysis of the evidence and report my findings and interpretations fully and objectively.
9. I will disclose all conflicts of interest (financial and other) that could compromise the trustworthiness of my work in research proposals, publications, public communications, and review activities.
10. When I publicly address a community in the spirit of academic freedom.
11. I will, in all stages, base my professional comments on research findings (if applicable) and my expertise, and distinguish between professional

4. I will keep clear and accurate records of all research that I have conducted in a manner that will allow verification and replication of my work by others, if applicable.
5. I will where applicable, share my data and findings openly and promptly, in line with external funding rules. This will be done as soon as possible after I have had an opportunity to establish priority and ownership claims.
6. I will take responsibility for my own contributions to publications, funding applications, reports, and other representations of my research. I will also only include authors who meet valid authorship criteria.
7. I will acknowledge the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to my research in publications, including writers, funders, sponsors, and others, but do not meet authorship criteria.
8. In my peer reviews, I will provide fair, prompt, and rigorous evaluations and respect the confidentiality of the review.
9. I will not fabricate, falsify, or manipulate data.
10. I will not plagiarise or use other people's work without their permission.
11. I will not use my position to influence the results of my research or to suppress comments and opinions based on personal views.
12. Should any irresponsible research practices and/or research misconduct become known to me or brought under my attention, I will report such irresponsible research activities to the appropriate authorities.
13. I will respond to irresponsible research practices or conduct, by taking prompt actions as set out in the university procedures. To the best of my abilities, I will also protect those who report misconduct in good faith.
14. I will endeavour to create and sustain an environment that encourages research integrity through the education of students, research teams, and peers and abide by policies and reasonable standards for advancement.
15. I will at all times weigh societal benefits against the risks inherent in my work.

The four major principles of research integrity to which I will adhere to, and that will guide my research are:

- Honesty in all aspects of research;
- Accountability in the conduct of research;
- Professional courtesy and fairness in working with others;
- Good stewardship of research on behalf of others.
- Consequently, I will also adhere to the following ethical responsibilities.

Name:.....Signature:..... Date:.....