



# Scientific Research Ethical Controls

King Abdulaziz University  
1443H

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**\* These controls have been prepared with reference to the following documents:**

- 1) Implementing Regulations to Research Ethics on Living Creatures - National Bioethics Committee. 1433H
- 2) Scientific Integrity Controls - the National Plan for Science, Technology, and Innovation – 1432H

## Foreword

Scientific Research Ethical Controls have become one of the most important components that universities, research institutions and funding entities take into account when performing a short-term or strategic planning for scientific research. They have also become one of the main elements of quality in the field of scientific research. The concept of “Scientific Research Ethics” refers to a set of regulations and laws that should be adhered to when preparing, executing, or publishing scientific programs and experiments. This is done within the framework of a set of governing values for those dealing with scientific research. King Abdulaziz University, through the Scientific Research Ethics Committee, has paid a special attention to setting binding controls for those in charge of scientific research. The importance of the Regulation is attributed to the fact that non-compliance with its controls may lead to serious consequences that are difficult to remedy, especially with regards to the environment and dealing with living creatures.

## Definitions

### Research Team

*A group of researchers combined by scientific research in a specific research proposal to achieve certain goals.*

### Controls

*The set of regulations governing the work of scientific research ethics that shall be acted upon.*

### Values

*A set of fundamentals that form the governing belief of the person dealing with all elements of scientific research, and they do not change due to the change of circumstances or the lapse of time, and they shall all be available without exception.*

### Associate Researcher

*One of the Researchers in the research team other than the main researcher. He is, jointly with the main researcher, responsible for the success of the research while adhering to scientific research ethics.*

### Main Researcher

*Team leader and responsible towards the research funder for submitting reports and adhering to the agreed upon in the contract and related matters of regulations and laws.*

### Research Group

*It is a group of Multidisciplinary Researchers within a Specific Research Field, to execute Research Projects through the group.*



## Technician

*One of the lab technicians who assist the research team.*

## Assistant Researcher

*A member of the Research Team with a bachelor's degree or master's degree.*

## Scientific Research Ethics Committee

*The committee concerned with formulating the scientific research ethics and developing mechanisms for its application and commitment thereto at King Abdulaziz University.*

## Publication

*Every scientific or literary research work or book*

## Research Proposal

*The proposed plan for specific research submitted by research team to the organization funding the research.*

## Consultant

*A specialist with a Higher Education Degree or Experience in Research.*

## Article (1):

These controls apply to research conducted by faculty members of King Abdulaziz University. They aim to:

- 1 Maintain religious and ethical values in the field of scientific research.
- 2 Consider the application of the most important elements of quality in preparation, execution, and publication of scientific research.
- 3 Gain international respect for the university scientific research sector.
- 4 Doing no harm to humans, animals, environment, and security.
- 5 Periodically monitor the compliance with the regulation controls

## General Controls

### Article (2): Main Principles

The researcher shall not:

- 1 Execute, or participate in the execution of, any Scientific Research that contradicts Islamic Values and Ethics
- 2 Use or participate in the use of Scientific Achievements against humanity
- 3 Execute Scientific Research that has a negative impact on Public Health and the Environment. If same was necessary, the Researcher shall act to remove or reduce that impact to the least possible extent.
- 4 Complete the Research in a way that detracts from human dignity or contradicts the principles of goodness, righteousness, and human values and norms.
- 5 Defend Scientific Issues in a way that is not based on facts, proven evidence, documented experiences, and scientific references



## Article (3): Professional Principles

The researcher shall be committed to the following:

- 1 The main researcher and associate researchers shall be committed to the terms of the proposal and the plan that is submitted and approved by the responsible body at the university.
- 2 Seeking accuracy and credibility regarding selecting and executing scientific research axes and topics as well as the ways to solve the problems raised
- 3 Not exaggerating when specifying the material and time requirements of scientific research, or the wasteful use of materials and supplies, or the misuse of available devices and materials.
- 4 Indicating the research results with credibility and transparency and not hiding or concealing the negative results from anyone or interpreting the results on controversial hypotheses.

5

Adhering to the instructions, rules and procedures of laboratory safety and security, and paying attention to the safety of workers, equipment, and laboratory equipment.

6

Adhering to the regulations, decisions, and instructions related to the Research Topic

7

Adhering to the systems and executive regulations related to Research on Living Creatures Ethics and the ethics of the profession when conducting experiments and research on humans, animals, or plants, in accordance with the Implementing Regulations for Research Ethics on Living Creatures issued by the National Bioethics Committee.

## Article (4): Researcher Conduct

The researcher shall consider the following:

- 1 Ensuring the quality of performance without linking the same to rewards and material and moral incentives.
- 2 Not using his research activity or his scientific expertise and concepts for publicity and advertisement for any personal purpose or tribal, national, ethnic, or other affiliations in violation of the applicable laws and regulations.
- 3 Staying away from personal relationships and whims or subjective criticism, during discussions and scientific debates with others, and committing to the principle of mutual respect, regardless of scientific position and titles.
- 4 Refraining from accepting the call to perform or contribute to the performance of any research in which he does not have sufficient scientific and professional experience, and being keen to recommend the nomination of those with expertise, competence and scientific know-how required to conduct such research.
- 5 Disclosing his specialty and academic degree when dealing with a topic or issue outside his specialty area.
- 6 Not withholding information, or the sources of obtaining it, or restricting the exchange of opinions and ideas between specialized researchers that impede the progress of scientific research.

7

Not withholding any scientific results - obtained by him - from the entity for which the research is being conducted.

8

Refraining from exaggerating in describing the results of his research in a way that misleads public opinion.

9

Maintaining the rights of the entity, on which the research is carried out, regarding the results of scientific research and intellectual products that he accesses, disclose them to that entity without delay, and not exploit them in any way for their own interest or for the benefit of others, without prior written permission from this entity.



## Article (5): Work Team

The researcher, within a work team, shall consider the following:

- 1 Encouraging teamwork through research work teams and not being alone or selfish in the accomplishment of scientific research.
- 2 Taking fairness into account by main researcher in distributing work among the team members as specified in the proposal or project plan taking into account their scientific and material rights.
- 3 Spreading the spirit of perseverance, seriousness, constructive competition, and mutual respect among researchers of all categories to support the scientific research process and ensure its continuity.
- 4 Distributing the research work to members of work team in a way that ensures the exchange of experience and perfection of work among the team members participating in research and raising their levels.
- 5 Selecting a team of those who are qualified and able to make achievements based on objective criteria without bias.



# Controls for Dealing with Living Creatures

## Article (6): Dealing with Living Creatures

The researcher, within a work team, shall commit to the Implementing Regulations to the Research Ethics on Living Creatures” issued by the National Bioethics Committee, with special attention to the following:

- 1 The need to use the least number of experimental animals and avoiding, as much as possible, pain or harm to those animals when conducting experiments.
- 2 The need to conduct all experiments on infectious microorganisms in laboratories of the category (P3) in order to keep the workers safe and prevent the leakage of infectious organisms outside the laboratories
- 3 The need for manpower (researchers, technicians and workers dealing with living creatures) to be fully qualified from a scientific, skill and ethical perspective to deal with those creatures.
- 4 The Main researcher shall be committed to obtaining official approvals when importing, sending, transporting or storing any living item for the purpose of scientific research.

5 The researcher shall be committed to reporting immediately to the in-charge authorities of any experimental error that results in harm to public and environmental health.

6 Legal and Ethical controls shall be observed regarding genetic engineering research by not conducting human cloning research or stem cells experiments (embryonic) for the purpose of creating embryos or trading in human organs and using them only for the purposes of gene- therapy.

7 The researcher shall be committed to not conducting gene-transfer experiments on infectious microorganisms.

8 Commitment to the safe disposal of all remains and effects resulting from experiments conducted on living creatures.

- 9 Taking into account that laboratories are equipped with all that is appropriate for dealing with living creatures in terms of transportation, preservation, conducting experiments, and avoiding contamination and infection.
- 10 Commitment to banning the planned spread of any genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and conducting experiments in minimal limits in protected houses that do not allow leakage and after obtaining official approval from the competent authorities, with completely safe disposal of the remains of experiments after their completion.
- 11 After obtaining official approval from the competent authorities, any person subject to the experiments shall be fully informed with all aspects related to the experiments and the effects that may result therefrom, and a written consent shall be taken from the person subject to the experiments.

## Publishing and Authoring Controls

### Article (7): Preparation and Publication

In the field of preparation and publication, the researcher shall be committed to:

- 1 Referring to the source or sources from which he quoted or relied upon in preparing his publication in their place and mentioning them in the list of references.
- 2 The researcher shall take into account the rights of research participants and supporting teams when preparing scientific papers for publication or using their results in preparing a scientific book.
- 3 Committing to the local and international laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom on copyright, especially with regards to obtaining the prior written consent of the author or publisher when translating a compiled work or part of it or re-publishing an image, form or otherwise.

**4** Not sending the scientific paper to be published to more than one entity at the same time.

**5** Referring to the Deanship of Scientific Research with thanks and gratitude according to the approved formulation as to research or publications funded in whole or in part by the university.

**6** Not repeating the publication of the scientific paper in another scientific journal, or in the record of a scientific conference or symposium without making material additions or modifications thereto, unless the publishers allow for this, without neglecting the reference to the original reference or source in which the paper was previously published.



## Article (8): Third Parties' Rights

In the field of protecting the Rights of Third Parties, the researcher shall:

- 1 Respect the right of society to publish scientific achievements, and not try to distort scientific facts or delay their publication.
- 2 Refer to the efforts of others whose works have been benefited from even if they are not published.
- 3 Take into account the arrangement of the names of researchers in joint works based on their actual contributions to that work. In case of equal contributions, their names shall be mentioned alphabetically, if there is no agreement between them stipulating otherwise.

**4** Not write the names of those who do not have an actual contribution to the published work

**5** Agree with the owner of the research project or its financier on copyright, document the same before starting to conduct the research, and stick to these rights upon publication.

**6** Not to omit the names of the participants in the Research, when intending to Publish Research or Scientific Papers or participate in a conference or symposium.

## Practices in Violation of Scientific Integrity

### Article (9): Fabricating Scientific Results

It is prohibited for a researcher to falsify or fabricate scientific results, to any extent, that are not based on scientific research or its experimental results, and claim that they are the result of experimental scientific research.

### Article(10):MisrepresentationofScientificResults

The Researcher shall present the scientific results that have been reached without distortion. He shall not exclude the deviant and the abnormal from the real results stemming from scientific experiments conducted within the limits of the statistical rules in this regard in order to show them characterized by the full consistency required by some Scientific Journals.

## Article (11): Exaggerating the Implications of the Results and their Importance

The researcher shall refrain from directed scientific misleading, including the deliberate focus on highlighting content, or approving a connotation that may be accidental and of weak significance, and treat it at equal terms with the remaining results obtained in the general context of scientific research, neglecting the significance of other numbers, which if highlighted, may weaken the idea round which the research revolves.

## Article (12): Plagiarism or Scientific Theft

The researcher shall be prohibited from attributing to himself part of or all the work of others, or neglecting to indicate the source of any idea or any part of the research work or the publication, whatever it may be.

## Article (13): Lack of Accuracy in Attribution and References

The researcher shall avoid exaggerating when mentioning scientific references without referring thereto and avoid listing the names of references to suggest the breadth of his scientific background in the field of his research, in order to consolidate the impression among readers or arbitrators of being aware of all that is going on in his specialty area.

## Article (14): Misrepresentation in Writing a Scientific Biography

The researcher shall seek accuracy and credibility in writing his scientific biography and not exaggerate in highlighting personal experiences and achievements in order to obtain any interest or mislead others.



