

'Policy document on 'Code of Research Ethics'

SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS:

This code shall apply to all the following stakeholders and activities in the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research:

1. RESEARCH:

Any scientific activity undertaken to answer a specific research question, that is conducted systematically and within the existing regulations, utilizing human participants, patients, biological samples, data, and animals to generate new knowledge, add to the body of existing knowledge, or disseminate such information as gathered in the course of healthcare or research.

2. RESEARCHER:

- a. Any appropriately qualified, trained, and experienced person conducting research on human participants, patients, biological samples, data, and animals in JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, its constituent colleges, centers and the community it serves.
- b. **Teacher:** Any employee of JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, who is engaged in research (includes all types of teachers such as full-time, part-time, adjunct, additional, temporary, permanent, contractual and honorary/emeritus).
- c. **Student:** Any learner, with Bonafide credentials (admitted provisionally or otherwise), to any course approved by the Academic Council, and offered by any of the constituent units/centers of JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), including and up to the point of receiving the degree/diploma, in the convocation.
- d. **Research Scholar/ Assistant/ Fellow:** Any person appointed in the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), or its constituent units for conducting research.

3. ETHICS COMMITTEE:

A committee constituted by the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), as per the Byelaws and existing regulations, whose main objective is to discuss and deliberate on the ethical issues arising out of biomedical and healthcare research protocols on human participants or biological samples and give ethical approval for the same and ensure the safety of research participants throughout the course of the research study.

4. PATIENT AND RESEARCH PARTICIPANT:

- a. Any person irrespective of caste, religion, gender or social status, visiting the outpatient department of the hospitals in the University, or being seen by any healthcare provider for health reasons (including in the villages, primary health centres, community, etc) or admitted to the wards of any of the teaching hospitals coming under the ambit of the University for reasons of health care (including their attendant caregivers) and or research.
- b. Any animal bred, used or sacrificed for the purpose of research.

5. BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE:

- a. Human Biological Sample: Any tissue, fluid, cells, body part, or specimen taken from a patient, a research participant, a cadaver or any animal to conduct research, or in the course of healthcare, taken for diagnosis or therapy or follow-up.
- b. Other biological samples: Any tissue, fluid, cells, body part, or specimen taken from a non-human source for research.

6. ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE:

A committee constituted by the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), as per existing regulations, whose main objective is to discuss and deliberate on the ethical issues arising out of research protocols on animals give ethical clearance for the same.

7. SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD:

A board constituted by the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), or its constituent units whose main objective is to discuss and deliberate on the scientific issues arising out of research protocols approve the same.

8. INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE:

A committee constituted by the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), or its constituent unit as per the existing regulations in line with rules, 1989 and guidelines issued by DBT from time to time, whose main objective is to discuss and deliberate on the scientific & biosafety related issues arising out of research protocols and approve the same.