

“JSS AHER CODE OF RESEARCH ETHICS (JSS AHER CORE)”

PREAMBLE:

In recognition of the critical role research plays in advancing knowledge and addressing societal challenges, researchers across various disciplines adhere to a set of principles aimed at upholding the integrity, transparency, and responsibility of their work. JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER) stands by the principles enshrined in this code and encourages and supports all its faculty members, employees and students to research as prescribed. Guided by a commitment to ethical conduct and the preservation of public trust, the following principles are affirmed to guide the conduct of researchers:

1. **Integrity:** Researchers recognize the importance of maintaining the integrity of their work and acknowledge their responsibility in ensuring its trustworthiness.
2. **Adherence to Regulations:** Researchers are committed to adhering to all relevant regulations and policies governing research, thereby upholding ethical standards and legal requirements.
3. **Research Methods:** Researchers employ rigorous and appropriate research methods, critically analyse evidence, and report findings objectively.
4. **Research Records:** Researchers maintain accurate records of their research activities, facilitating verification and replication by others.
5. **Research Findings:** Researchers share data and findings openly and promptly, acknowledging priority and ownership claims where applicable.
6. **Authorship:** Researchers take responsibility for their contributions to publications and other research representations, adhering to established authorship criteria.
7. **Publication Acknowledgement:** Researchers acknowledge the contributions of individuals and organizations that have significantly supported their research in publications.
8. **Peer Review:** Researchers conduct fair and rigorous peer reviews, respecting confidentiality and contributing to the integrity of scholarly discourse.
9. **Conflict of Interest:** Researchers disclose financial and other conflicts of interest that may impact the integrity of their work.
10. **Public Communication:** Researchers engage in public communication within their recognized expertise, clearly distinguishing between professional commentary and personal opinions.
11. **Reporting Irresponsible Research Practices:** Researchers report suspected research misconduct and irresponsible practices to the appropriate authorities, thereby safeguarding the integrity of research.
12. **Responding to Irresponsible Research Practices:** Researchers support procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct, ensuring accountability and corrective actions.
13. **Research Environments:** Researchers advocate for research environments that promote integrity through education, clear policies, and supportive work cultures.
14. **Societal Considerations:** Researchers and research institutions acknowledge their ethical obligation to weigh societal benefits against risks inherent in their work.

'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:

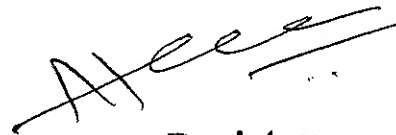
A board constituted by the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), or its constituent units whose main objective is to discuss and deliberate on the scientific issues arising out of research protocols approve the same.

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.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ETHICS COMMITTEES

1. The ethical guidelines encompass both human and animal ethics committees.
2. Ethical committees are responsible for evaluating and endorsing research protocols with participant protection as a paramount consideration.
3. Upholding the utmost standards, ethics committees must maintain rigorous review processes and uphold post-approval activities.
4. It is incumbent upon the ethics committee to oversee the study's progression until its culmination.
5. Ethics committees are obliged to adhere to relevant guidelines and regulations that evolve.
6. Ethics committees are tasked with independently reviewing and sanctioning protocols while adhering to established standard operating procedures.
7. The Chairman and Members of the Ethics Committee are bound by the imperative of disclosing any potential conflicts of interest concerning matters under consideration before them.



Registrar

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research
Sri Shivarathreeshwara Nagar,
Mysuru 570015