

The Royal Society's research integrity statement

The Royal Society's fundamental purpose is to recognise, promote and support excellence in science. This includes advocating for the excellent conduct of research, and for a culture of research that sustains and rewards this. The Society's Fellowship and all those that receive grants from the Society are expected to observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity in undertaking their research. Ethics and integrity are not an "optional extra" or a "regulatory burden" but an integral part of good research. This statement sets out key principles and behaviours of an ethical nature.

Excellence

- **Researchers** should strive for excellence. The same rigour that is applied to research design should be applied to its communication and conduct, including compliance with all legal, ethical and professional guidelines and obligations. Individuals should not knowingly mislead others as to the originality or interpretation of their or others' research, but should recognise openly the contributions of others through authorship or other appropriate means.
- **Institutions** have a responsibility to create an environment where the honest and ethical conduct of science is an expected norm. A supportive and honest research culture should be a central tenet of the leadership's vision of success and permeate the behaviours and practices of individuals at every level.

Accountability

- **Researchers** are accountable for their work; from conception to publication. Every researcher's behaviours and practices should align with best practice guidance. This includes the UK Research Integrity Office Code of Practice for Research to which the Society is a signatory.
- **Institutions** should have clear policies on research integrity. They should provide high quality training and any other activities necessary to equip researchers with the skills, knowledge and resources needed to conduct science that is high-quality, ethical and valuable. Research leaders have a responsibility to mentor, supervise and support members of their Group.

Transparency

- **Researchers** should conduct and communicate their research in a manner that best enables it to be reproduced. This includes: publishing research protocols, data collection methods, and all evidential assets. Every endeavour should be made to ensure and assure the accuracy of data and reported results.
- **Institutions** should promote the open exchange of knowledge and ideas subject to any conditions of confidentiality, such as those arising from ethical approval. This includes researchers making data and outputs available via searchable open repositories and routinely having ORCID IDs. Published guidance should make clear the requirement for researchers to make known any potential or actual conflicts of interest and actions undertaken to resolve these.

Responsiveness

- **Researchers** have a responsibility to report actual or attempted breaches of ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards to the host institution. This should be done in line with published institutional guidance. In instances where the researcher(s) involved are in receipt of financial support from the Society, then it should also be made aware of any concerns. This includes allegations of poor practice or misconduct reported on online platforms (e.g. PubPeer) or through the use of automated tools to check statistical results post-publication (e.g. Statcheck).
- **Institutions** have a responsibility to investigate all allegations of poor behaviour. The processes should be fair, thorough, transparent and publicly available. All parties involved should be provided support. As far as is possible, investigations should be progressed confidentially but with the full knowledge of the researcher(s) involved and with appropriate notifications made by the institution at the conclusion of the process, for example to funders and journals.