

Code for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

As authorized by the Senate in its meeting on 25.3.2012

1. Introduction

The Technion strives toward excellence in research. Responsible conduct of research requires adherence to regulations as well as excellence. Responsible conduct of research is based on a commitment to principles of truth, freedom, responsibility, integrity and cooperation. It requires adherence to the professional and ethical standards accepted in the scientific community, as well as to the laws of the State of Israel, the rules and procedures of the Technion, and the rules of the research sponsors. The application of the standards of responsible conduct of research to members of the scientific community must be conducted first and foremost, by the academic staff members who serve as a personal example in their teaching, practical instruction and management of research projects on all levels. However, the Technion has adopted regulations for responsible conduct of research in order to give explicit expression to the common core of work principles that are binding for all the Technion's researchers. The Technion requires its researchers to conduct themselves in accordance with specific principles and regulations in all aspects of the research, including: planning of the research and submitting research proposals to the research sponsors; conducting the research – including the collection of data and achieving results, documentation, analysis and storage; and the referencing, publication and conveying of the results for the public's use.

“Research” – Research that is conducted in the Technion and/or on behalf of the Technion and/or is coordinated by the Technion.

“Technion Researchers” in this code, including in all its chapters, are the Technion's Academic Staff members, employees of the Technion Institute and the Technion R&D Foundation (TRDF), the pensioners, guests and students of the Technion (all degrees) – engaged in the planning of research and/or the submitting of research proposals for funding, and/or the management or reporting of the research, and/or the conduct of the research, as well as any person who takes part in the research.

It is clarified that commercial companies that retain the Technion's laboratory services are not subject to this code.

In this code, masculine form will also include the feminine form and vice versa, and singular form will also mean plural form and vice versa.

It is clarified that this code is supplemental to provisions of the laws of the State of Israel, the Technion's Constitution and Bylaws, and the Academic Regulations and Procedures of the Technion's Senate.

2. Values and Basic Rules*

2.1 Extending Knowledge

The Technion Researchers shall be obligated to search for the scientific truth and will strive to publish the results of their research in order to extend human knowledge and to deepen the human understanding and the ability to use the knowledge in order to achieve worthy scientific, technological, human and social goals.

2.2 Freedom

The Technion Researchers will conduct themselves according to the principle of the freedom of scientific research. They will plan and conduct their research with no extraneous influences, but subject to ethical, professional, legal, environmental and economic constraints.

2.3 Responsibility

The Technion Researchers will display responsibility in all aspects of their research.

This includes their protection of the health, safety and honor of anyone who may be impacted by their research (whether involved in the research or not). They will restrict the use of animals in their research, minimize their suffering, and protect the environment. All of these aspects shall be executed to the best of their ability and as expected and reasonable according to the circumstances.

2.4 Professionalism

The Technion Researchers will conduct themselves according to the accepted professional standards in their field of research. They will diligently update their knowledge and instill the values and basic rules of scientific research to anyone who conducts research or a scientific experiment under their authority.

2.5 Integrity

The Technion Researchers will present their research and its results in a fair, transparent, complete and precise manner that will enable review and discussion, while acknowledging the contribution of all those who took part in the research.

* Based on the ethical principles of scientific research as detailed in the document, which was prepared by the "Committee for Ethics in Science and Intellectual Property" of the National Council for Research and Development, headed by Professor Asa Kasher, member of Tel Aviv University's faculty and guest professor at the Technion's Department of Humanities and Arts.

2.6 Cooperation

The Technion Researchers will encourage scientific cooperation in an atmosphere characterized by openness, willingness to help and mutual trust. However, Technion Researchers are entitled to personal, group and institutional recognition and at times, to the appropriate intellectual property rights for the scientific achievements to which they made a unique and significant contribution.

3. Regulations for Responsible Conduct of Research

3.1 Ethical Principles

The Technion Researchers will safeguard the honor, autonomy, safety and well-being of all those who may be influenced by their research, whether they are directly involved in the research, or not. A research study that involves human beings, whether it is a clinical trial or not, will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Law, based on the accepted principles in the international community, and in accordance with the work procedures set by the Technion for experiments that involve human beings. Technion Researchers who may consider the use of animals in their research, shall work in accordance with the provisions of the Law, internationally accepted principles as well as with the Technion's procedures that require the search for alternatives to the use of animals, reducing the number of animals that are used in the experiments to the minimum necessary, using experimental animal that are lowest on the phylogenetic scale, and minimizing the suffering of the animals involved in the research. The Technion website features the procedures that apply to research proposals that include experiments on human beings, bylaws regarding the ethical rules in preparing research on humans in the behavioral sciences, procedures, instructions and guidelines for use of animals in Technion experiments and the Regulation of Research into Biological Disease Agents – Act of 2008.

3.2 Conflict of Interests in Research

The Technion Researchers will conduct their research impartially and without bias. They must use their professional judgment in an independent manner and without extraneous considerations that may influence any aspect of the conduct of their research. They will disclose to the Committee for Conflict of Interests in Research (see the Regulations for Conflict of Interest in Research) any matter in which there is, or may appear to be, a bias to skew the research or inappropriately influence the decisions regarding the conduct of the research. Furthermore, they will conduct themselves in accordance to the Technion's Regulations for Conflict of Interest in Research, and pursuant to the decisions of the

Committee for Conflict of Interests in Research, which was established by virtue of these regulations.

3.3 Research Funding

The Technion Researchers, who submit research proposals requesting funding, will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all the information included in their proposal is carefully presented, is scientifically based and is properly budgeted. Technion Researchers who receive funding for their research must ensure that the funding is used for its designated purpose, and that all the reports meet all the requirements of the sponsor and all of the Technion's rules pertaining to internal and external funding of research.

3.4 Documentation of research results and storage of Data

The Technion Researchers will document the research process and its results, including interim results, in a clear, precise and complete manner. This documentation will be stored in a reliable and durable manner for a period of at least 3 years from the day the research is completed, or for a longer period if required by Law or by the conditions of the sponsor, and in accordance with the accepted practice in the research field. Technion Researchers will allow access to this documentation based on a reasonable request of Technion colleagues and authorities, and contingent on, and in accordance with, the Protection of Confidentiality and Privacy provisions.

3.5 Publication of Results

- 3.5.1 Publication of the research results shall be conducted in a fair, transparent, complete and precise manner.
- 3.5.2 In unusual cases in which there is a suspicion that the disclosure or non-disclosure of the research data or findings may cause severe damage to the public, damage to the respect for human dignity and liberty, or a breach of fundamental rights, the researcher must report his findings to the Executive Vice President for Research and receive his instructions on the matter.
- 3.5.3 The Technion Researchers shall not agree to conduct research for an external party, when the external party demands a right of veto of any kind with regard to the publication of the research results. Publication of the research results may be postponed due to a commitment to a third party, until the stage of submitting the proposal for a patent based on this commitment or for the purpose of protecting intellectual property. In special cases, the Executive Vice President for Research is entitled to postpone the publication, set limitations with regard to the publication, or prevent the publication.

3.5.4 The Technion Researchers will assume full responsibility for the study published under their name and take all reasonable steps to ensure:

- A. That the study was conducted as described, impartially and without bias, that the reported results were attained as reported, and that the publication does not pose any type of misrepresentation.
- B. That the idea for the study and its planning, the collection of the data, their analysis and interpretation, and the reported results belong exclusively to the authors signed on the publication. Additionally, they attest that they did not copy them from any source without authorization or without explicitly mentioning the source in the publication, and that the publication is not the product of plagiarism or theft of ideas.
- C. That any contribution to the research (by an academic staff member, by a researcher, by the sponsor or by another party) has received suitable reference and mention.
- D. That the authors signed on the study all participated in the study or in the preparation of the publication, that each of them can identify his contribution to the publication and accepts personal responsibility for its contents, that they all recognize its contents, and the research has not been attributed to a person who did not participate therein.

3.6 Absence of liability for the use of the research results

Despite the aforementioned in this Code, Technion Researchers are not responsible for any use made by others of the results of their study.

3.7 Intellectual Property of Others

Technion Researchers will respect the intellectual property of others.

3.8 Discipline

Breach of the provisions of Section 3 is conduct unbecoming research, which may constitute a basis for the taking of disciplinary action. This subsection adds to the disciplinary offenses listed in the various disciplinary bylaws that apply to Technion Researchers.

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