IBEC Code of conduct for research integrity

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IBEC R
Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia

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HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Content

IBEC Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

Introduction

The research community and the community at large expect adherence to exemplary standards of intellectual honesty in the formulation, conduct, and reporting of scientific research.

Researchers themselves also benefit from a culture of integrity and constructive mutual relationships: if they can trust their colleagues worldwide, they will feel free to cooperate in a fruitful manner and will cherish creativity. Similarly, the academic community as a whole are dependent on their reliability and honesty in the eyes of society.

IBEC is a research centre whose purpose is to carry out interdisciplinary research at the highest international quality level which, by creating knowledge, helps to improve health and quality of life and generate wealth.

In consequence, IBEC has the responsibility to ensure that its research environment fosters the generation of new knowledge and preserves the integrity of its research and the trust and confidence the public have in research.

At IBEC good practice in research forms an integral part of its research strategy. Scientific and Social Responsibility is one of IBEC's values , guiding us in our working life.

This Scientific and Social Responsibility is understood at IBEC as the commitment to the profession, and thus acting according to principles of good faith, integrity, honesty and transparent communication, seeking and maintaining an ethical code of clear behavior, and adhering to best practices in science. It is based on the individual assuming the consequences of decisions he or she makes, being aware of and responsible for them, and reporting them where necessary. It makes scientific freedom possible and helps us stay reliable and relevant in the research world.

IBEC adheres to the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers, in line with the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) of the European Commission, and the Code of Conduct of the CERCA Institution, where general principles and requirements such as Ethical principles and Professional responsibility and attitudes are defined for researchers as well as of employers.

Purpose

Whilst the ultimate responsibility for good research practice lies with the individual researcher, IBEC understands that safeguarding research integrity is a shared task within the research community. Hence the purpose of this Code

This Code is a framework for good research practice, setting the criteria for proper research behavior and establishing an environment conducive to high-quality research, thus ensuring that research is conducted according to international ethical standards.

This code sets out the ethical standards and standards of research conduct of those engaged in research. Sets out principles, recommendations and commitments.

This Code complements IBEC policies and procedures such as those for health and safety, working conditions, intellectual property, and does not replace them. Its content is complementary to the laws in force.

Together with the promotion of this Code, IBEC wants to take a proactive role providing training to researchers in this respect throughout a researcher's career, and raising awareness on the subject, thus preventing future problems.

1 https://ibecbarcelona.eu/about-us/mission-and-vision/

Scope

This Code of Conduct for Research Integrity applies to and should be known and be familiar with its content by all professionals linked to IBEC at all career stages from Group Leaders, to PhD students or students, technicians and support members, including employees, affiliated researchers, associated researchers, students, visiting scientists, collaborators under a collaboration agreement with another institution, or individuals associated with IBEC that are authorized to use facilities, funds and/or services when engaging in research activities.

All professionals linked to IBEC should:

a) recognize their responsibility to conduct research of high ethical standards;

b) be aware of IBEC's Code of Conduct for Research Integrity;

c) make sure that their research complies with the code, and seek guidance from IBEC (the commission of research integrity) when necessary;

d) undergo training in order to carry out their duties and to develop their knowledge and skills throughout their career;

e) Ethical scientific research encompasses all stages of research life-cycle, ranging from proposal to dissemination;

This Code doesn't cover all regulations in detail. Instead, the code provides a framework to guide researchers introducing the main relevant issues and topics, and where useful or necessary refers to further reading. By making clear the conduct that is expected and considered effective, this code contributes to an atmosphere of openness. This Code is a living document that will be updated on a regular basis and at least every 5 years. The most up-to-date version can be accessed on the intranet at Public Files / **Regulations and Policies** / Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

Supervision of researchers

Researchers involved in the supervision and development of other researchers should be aware of their responsibilities and ensure that they have the necessary training, time and resources to carry out that role.

Supervisors should engage in self-reflection about their suitability and their capacity for taking on additional supervision workloads, balancing it alongside other research, teaching and administrative tasks, keeping in mind the need to ensure quality supervision for each individual researcher under their care.

Obligations of supervisors with their team members, especially with first stage researchers (R1) and new members:

a) to interact personally with them;

b) to supervise the tasks and ensure they are completed;

c) to organize regular meetings to discuss the progress of research and career progress and provide regular constructive feedback;

d) to monitor the working conditions of his/her team members;

e) to mentor them and offer specific guidance

f) to ensure that they receive appropriate training to develop their research;

g) to encourage their career development;

h) to foster a culture of research integrity;

i) to provide them with up-to-date information regarding legal requirements affecting scientific activities.

j) to be mindful and respectful of intersectional differences (e.g. the interplay of cultural backgrounds, seniority levels, genders, social roles, and work experiences) within the supervisory relationship, as these factors can significantly influence expectations and communication styles;

k) to balance guiding and directing supervision styles to encourage autonomy of the researcher in line with their career stage, and to support independence;

l) to share expectations with researchers on matters related to communication (including meeting frequency and feedback procedures) and the responsibility for research tasks and outputs;

m) in cases of conflicts, should reflect on their own position within the power dynamic and respect the limits and priorities of researchers;

n) to provide guidance concerning the available support structures within IBEC and should provide support with IBEC rules and regulations;

Supervisors should promote a culture of psychological safety within their teams, where researchers can express their needs and goals. Every member of the team should feel that one will not be punished or humiliated for speaking up with ideas, questions, concerns, or mistakes and that they can take risks without being shamed by other team members.

Collaborative research

As a part of its open innovation and internationalization strategies, IBEC fosters research in collaboration with its global network of partnerships with world-class research centres, hospitals and companies. Thus, IBEC will ensure that ethical principles are respected no matter where the research is physically carried out.

Collaboration between groups, either in our country or cross-border, should be formalized with the limits, terms and processes of the collaboration at the planning stage of the project.

It is recommended to include the following aspects in the research project proposal:

- definition of the relationships between the different researchers involved and the exchange of information during the project;
- distribution of responsibilities, rights, and obligations of the researchers involved both in relation to the tasks to be undertaken and the results obtained (i.e. intellectual property or publication);
- plan for the presentation and communication of the results;
- procedures for the storage and distribution of data and samples;
- prediction of possible commercial implications;
- relevant requirements on research integrity, misconduct and resolution of conflicts;
- stipulations relating to funding.

Gender and diversity perspective

Research projects must contain a gender dimension, integrating sex and/or gender analysis in the design and delivery of research and innovation. Research projects must take into account and be sensitive to relevant differences among research participants, such as age, gender, sex, culture, religion, worldview, ethnicity, geographic location and social class, amongst others.

Environmental Sustainability

IBEC is committed to promote more sustainable practices in research and administration, to contribute, in our daily work, to fight climate change and pollution.

It is an ethical mandate to develop research following the highest standards of sustainable laboratory practices to preserve our environment for future generations.

Use of resources

IBEC, as a foundation of the public sector, works under standards of transparency following the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Spanish Transparency, Public Access to Information and Good Governance Law and the Code of recommended principles and conducts recommended in public procurement of the Catalan Law of Science, which aim to transparency and integrity in public activity, guarantees access to information and establishes the obligations of good governance.

Researchers make proper and conscientious use of research funds in accordance with the principles of effectiveness and efficiency, responsibility and proper management to reach IBEC ultimate goal of promoting better health and quality of life.

Researchers should take care to ensure that IBEC's public and professional reputation is not jeopardised. This is achieved, at the most fundamental level, by not entering into research agreements with individuals or groups who are engaged in illegal activities.

Specifically, when considering undertaking research for an external funder, researchers should take into account that no research should be undertaken that is knowingly (at the time the agreement was being negotiated and confirmed) supported by resources secured illegally.

Transparency and primacy of public interest needs to be fulfilled not only in publicly funded research but also in every collaborative partnership with another entity or company involving economic benefits.

Use of external infrastructures

The use of facilities and equipment requires the explicit consent of the institution (either IBEC or an external institution) who owns and runs the facility in order to guarantee work safety and proper use.

Evaluation of researchers

IBEC is committed to the principles of the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers of the European Commission and the Open, Transparent and Merit based Recruitment principles.

IBEC, as a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), will consider, especially for early-stage investigators, the scientific content of research outputs more highly than their associated publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which such research outputs were published. We will also take into account diversity, inclusiveness, openness and collaboration, where relevant.

Conflicts of interest

A conflict of interest is a situation in which financial or other personal interests have the potential to compromise a researcher's professional judgment and objectivity in the design, conduct or reporting of research.

Conflicts of interest involve the use of a person's authority for personal, professional and/or financial gain. The consequence of conflicts of interest is the bias and loss of objectivity in research.

An academic conflict of interest could occur if an individual interferes with the peer-review process for some type of personal gain[2].

Conflict of interest may also occur when the research is sponsored by an institution that may prefer one outcome of the research to another[3]. These conflicts should be stated in any communication of the research results.

Researchers acting as peer reviewers must declare any relevant conflicts of interest. Likewise, researchers involved in dealing with violations and allegations of misconduct must declare any conflict of interest that may arise during the investigation.

In case a person which participates in an evaluation panel of a selection process finds there is a conflict of interest with any of the candidates will have no vote in the evaluation of this candidate.

Conflict of interest may also occur when the researcher is linked to more than one institution (either public or private)[4] and there are competing interests between those institutions.

Any conflict of interest should be made explicit by the researcher at an early stage of any process, so that IBEC can put in place the mechanisms needed to prevent harmful consequences

IBEC members must refrain from accepting personal donations or benefits derived from their work at IBEC. Personal awards in recognition of the scientific trajectory of a researcher are excluded from this restriction.

[2] For example, bias can cause a reviewer to respond positively to a manuscript because it presents results favoring a method or production in which the reviewer has a personal interest, or a reviewer may act to delay the publication of a competitor's manuscript to strengthen his or her own chances for publication or funding.
[3] For example, with contracts with the industry or when researchers act as consultants
[4] For example, when the researcher has a double affiliation with another research institution or is linked to a spin-off

Publications and scientific communications

Obligation to communicate science

In line with IBEC's mission, it is considered morally imperative to honestly publish and disseminate the results of the research carried out at IBEC, and it may include negative results. Scientific communication includes many channels: peer review publications, scientific conferences, press releases, interviews, outreach events. etc.

In any case, scientific dissemination should be made in a professional and accurate manner.

Peer review publications or scientific conferences will be the preferred manner prior to communication to the media or the general public.

In the communication with the media, authors should be rigorous and avoid creating false expectations regarding the applications of IBEC findings to health or the market.

Open access

The global shift towards making research findings available free of charge for readers, so-called 'Open access', has been a core strategy in the European Commission to improve knowledge circulation and thus innovation. It is also covered in the Spanish Law of Science, Technology and Innovation from 2011 (and its modification in 2022) and in the Catalan Law of Science.

IBEC needs to ensure that their publications are available to the whole community either by using open access journals or open version of regular journals or by storing them in public repositories.

Content, authorship and acknowledgements

IBEC is fully aligned with the European Code of conduct for research integrity, specifically to what refers to publications and authorship:

All authors are fully responsible for the content of a publication.

Authorship is based on a significant contribution to the design of the research, relevant data collection, or the analysis or interpretation of the results. Each author should be able to state its particular contribution to the publication. Honorary (including a person only on the basis of hierarchical position or professional relationship) and ghost (omitting a person that has significantly contributed to the results) are unacceptable practices.

As a general rule, the order of authors should be as follows:

a) the **first author** should be the person who has made the greatest contribution to generating the results of the study and typically writes the first publication draft;

b) the **senior author** who directed or has final responsibility for the research project appears as the last author;

c) the **remaining authors** may appear in order of importance and, in certain cases, in alphabetical order;

d) The **corresponding author** is responsible for dealing with the editorial process and future correspondence arising from the publication of the study. In some cases it denotes seniority in the development of the research.

It is recommended to include in the publication a paragraph describing the contribution of each of the authors.

To indicate shared responsibility in generating the results of a study, or in the leadership of a project, main or corresponding authorship (respectively) can be shared among more than one author. In this case it has to be indicated in the publication.

The Researcher, when submitting the publication for consideration, should be aware of the conventions of authorship in use by the chosen journal.

Authors **acknowledge** important work and intellectual contributions of others, including collaborators, assistants, scientific and technical core facilities, and funders, and cite related work correctly.

All authors disclose any conflicts of interest and financial or other types of support (see section conflicts of interest).

Artificial Intelligence use

Researchers should not hide the use of artificial intelligence or automated tools in the creation of content or drafting of publications. This is especially important in the case of the generation and/or

analysis of research data.

Peer review

Peer review is an important part of good practice.

Peer review means all requests to an individual in their position of expert to undertake an assessment, examination, or criticism of a manuscript submitted for publication, an individual or group grant proposal, a clinical or experimental protocol subject to assessment by an ethics committee, or a report arising from an on-site visit to a laboratory or center.

IBEC encourages researchers to act as peer reviewers.

Researchers who carry out peer review should do so to the highest standards of thoroughness and objectivity.

Reviewers maintain confidentiality unless there is prior approval for disclosure.

Researchers don't retain or copy any material under review without the express permission of the organisation which requested the review. They should not make use of research designs or research findings from a paper under review without the express permission of the author(s).

While carrying out peer review, researchers may become aware of possible misconduct, such as plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, or have ethical concerns about the design or conduct of the research. In such cases they should inform, in confidence, an appropriate representative of the organisation which requested the review, such as the editor of the journal or chair of the grants or ethics committee.

Ethics in research

Within IBEC, all research activities respect fundamental ethical principles, as well as national legislation, relevant EU legislation and standards, international conventions and directives, and the opinions of the European Group on Ethics and Protection of Animals (e.g. 99/167/EC: Council Decision of 25/1/99 and EC Directive 86/609). National and local committees that judge the ethical aspects of the intended experiments have to give their explicit approval before any experiment starts.

IBEC Board of Trustees must be informed beforehand of any research with potential great social impact and ethical implications, such as research for military purposes.

Protection and confidentiality of human data

The use of human subjects (healthy and not healthy) in the research projects of IBEC will be done with the corresponding approval of their ethics committee.

The principles of anonymity and confidentiality of patients and their data will be adhered to throughout and being stored with identifier, which does not identify subject's identity. There will be no collection or analysis of personal data as defined in the guidance coming from EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and not falling under the data privacy rules.

As a general practice, informed consent will be gained from all patients in the different phases of the projects, making them fully aware of any potential consequences and implications of the involved procedures and resulting data, and the fact that they are free to withdraw from the research at any time. The consent will be given for a specific project and purpose. It will be necessary to sign a new informed consent for different purposes.

All research plans that involve the use of institutional computer records or the preparation of databases

containing information relating to individuals must guarantee the anonymity of the participants and be subject to current regulations on data protection.

The identity, as well as any other type of information, regarding human volunteers and (if relevant) patients is treated as strictly confidential. Procedures to ensure the protection and confidentiality of data are based on sample anonymization, during which the physician in charge at the collaborating hospitals encrypts the samples and stores the personal data of the donors and the encryption code in manual files in a secured cabinet. Only limited anonymized data which is sufficient to describe the pathological state of the supplied tissue is provided to the tissue recipient.

For the secondary use of the research data, all direct identifiers (name, address, ID) or indirect identifiers (workplace, place of residence, age, profession etc.) will be removed or otherwise masked

Human samples

Storage, use and sharing of human biological samples of any kind, collected as part of a research project, must comply with current legislation on biobanks and treatment of human biological samples for bio-medical research. Where applicable, collections must be registered at the National Register of Biobanks of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III.

Sourcing human samples requires ethical permission and informed consent. For each project, written informed consent is obtained by the investigator from all subjects prior to any protocol-specific procedure. Healthy donors and patients involved will be interviewed and informed of all the research activities to be performed with their materials, and then asked to sign informed consent before the beginning of the experiment.

Human samples may only be preserved as long as it is necessary for the particular research project.

Genetic research

All research protocols that include the collection, manipulation, and/or storage of biological samples for the purposes of genetic analysis will be prepared according to the applicable legislation. In particular, the privacy of the subjects and their right to be informed about their personal results must be guaranteed. The consent of the participating subjects can foresee the use of samples in other projects related to the initially proposed research. Consent must be renewed whenever biological samples are to be used for purposes other than those indicated in the informed consent at the time they were donated.

Human embryonic material

All research plans that involve collection, manipulation, and/or storage of human embryonic material must receive the corresponding permission from the Spanish Ministry of Health or the applicable authority, following acceptance by the appropriate ethics committee for clinical research.

Research involving genetically modified organisms

All procedures involving the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) requires authorization by the Spanish inter-ministerial Council. The information about the laboratories and activities authorized will be kept by IBEC. To maintain this authorization, a permanent updating of the information is needed. Group leaders are responsible for regularly updating the information together with IBEC Biosafety Officer. New laboratories, modifications of the laboratories or new activities involving genetically modified organism must be communicated to the IBEC Biosafety Officer to proceed with the notification to the Spanish inter-ministerial Council and obtain the authorization

Animal experiments

All experiments involving animals, as well as all associated procedures involving animal obtention, keeping, handling, and disposal, will be registered with and approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. All animal experimentation carried out at IBEC or by any IBEC personnel shall be performed according to the existing European legal framework for the protection of laboratory animals.

IBEC will respect the principles of Reduction, Refinement and Replacement (Amsterdam Protocol) of use of animals for experimentation.

Data management

Transparency and primacy of public interest must also rule the management of the data and materials arising from a research project in order to facilitate external review and scientific collaboration. IBEC researchers and administrators must follow the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) principles for the management of the scientific data.

All data and materials arising from a research carried out in IBEC or by people linked to IBEC is the property of IBEC and has to be put at the disposal of IBEC staff if required.

All data and materials arising from experiments must be accurately recorded and safely storaged respecting ethical principles at least for a period of 10 years from the date of the first publication of the results or IP protection, except human biological material that will be stored only until the end of the specific research project. The records must also include changes, errors, and negative, unexpected, or conflicting results as well as an indication of the person who made or observed them and the equipment and procedures used.

The ultimate responsible of the collection and storage will be the group leader of the research group where the experiment is carried out. He/she will be responsible for the identification and keeping of data and materials from people leaving the institution.

In the case of collaboration with other research institutions, an agreement will be set to regulate the transfer of data and materials.

In the case that the group leader changes institutions, the process of change and possible transfers of knowledge, materials or equipment derived from the research of the group shall be carried out under the responsibility, supervision and approval of IBEC.

Unless duly justified in terms of privacy, intellectual property, future commercial use or interest for the project, data and materials resulting from a research project should be publicly available and kept in a condition appropriate to be shared with third parties.

IBEC's Research Data Management Policy regulates all these issues with more detail. Also the Policy on Open Science specifies how to make data open access when possible, following the principle "as open as possible and as closed as necessary".

Intellectual property

Intellectual property is an asset of IBEC. All IBEC researchers must follow the procedures to ensure the protection of IBEC's intellectual property generated as a product of research or technological activities.

IBEC must ensure the application of a fair value of the technology, that respects the minimum market criteria in any valuation, negotiation or transaction of these assets and the application of the rules of the Catalan Law of Science and the Generalitat de Catalunya in what refers to patrimony of a public foundation.

Misconduct, unacceptable practices and violation of research integrity

When the integrity of research fails, that is termed research misconduct.

Everybody is susceptible to incur or commit misconduct and researchers have to self-regulate themselves to make sure they do what is right, even when it is difficult.

Research Misconduct is described as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

Specifically:

a) Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them as if they were real;

b) Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record;

c) Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit to the original source, thus violating the rights of the original author(s) to their intellectual outputs.

Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

Individual or collective research misconduct can cover a broad spectrum of acts which ranges from a carelessness research or unconscious biases to fraud going through and questionable research practices. Unacceptable or questionable research practices include, but are not confined to the following examples:

- Manipulating authorship or denigrating the role of other researchers in publications.
- Re-publishing substantive parts of one's own earlier publications, without duly acknowledging or citing the original ('self-plagiarism').
- Citing selectively to enhance own findings or to please editors, reviewers or colleagues.
- Hiding the use of AI or automated tools in the creation of content or drafting of publications.
- Conducting research in humans without informed consent or without justifying why consent was not obtained from an ethics committee.
- Not disclosing a conflict of interest.
- Withholding research results.
- Secrecy of a research plan or any part of such plan. Differs from restriction of access for reasons of competition or confidentiality.
- Accusing a researcher of misconduct or other violations in a malicious way.
- When writing a paper, expressly excluding those results that contradict your main hypothesis.
- Exaggerating the importance and practical applicability of findings.
- Delaying or inappropriately hampering the work of other researchers.

IBEC is intended to enable allegations of research misconduct to be processed fairly, confidentially, and promptly.

When dealing with research misconduct following principles must be followed:

- Disclosure of the identity of the person who made an allegation and the person accused of research misconduct is limited to those who need to know, in order to protect those involved in the investigation.
- Anyone accused of research misconduct is presumed innocent.
- No person should suffer any unnecessary penalty when accused of research misconduct before the allegation is proven.
- The rights of 'whistleblowers' will be protected during investigations and ensure that their career prospects are not endangered.

Allegations of research misconduct are handled through a two-stage process:

1. Assessment of the allegation:

Complaints, information, alerts, allegations or reports of research misconduct regarding acts or omissions arising or that have arisen within the scope of IBEC's activities and that constitute an infringement must be communicated through IBEC's Ethical Channel. The Complaints, information, alerts, allegations, reports of research misconduct will be governed by the Ethical's Channel Policy and, on an ancillary basis, by the Procedure for Managing Information Received.

If a person is unsure whether or not a suspected incident is considered research misconduct, he/she may contact any member of the Commission for Research Integrity to discuss it informally and confidentially.

The Commission for Research Integrity will appoint 3 members from among its 9 components for advising the Collegiate Body of the Ethical Channel, if necessary.

Allegations of misconduct may also refer to any person that has left IBEC.

2. Investigation:

The purpose of the investigation is to develop a record by exploring the allegation(s) in detail and examining the evidence in depth, leading to recommended findings on whether research misconduct has been committed, by whom, and to what extent.

The Collegiate body in collaboration with the RI Commission is responsible for preparing a written report for the Investigation, which includes a statement of findings.

The Collegiate body in collaboration with the RI Commission will determine any recommended actions to be taken, if any, in response to accepted findings of research misconduct. The final decision will be notified to the person who made the allegation and the person accused of misconduct.

If the Collegiate body in collaboration with the RI Commission decides that the investigation is outside its field or cannot be analyzed with sufficient impartiality, especially in cases involving article retraction, adoption of labor disciplinary measures or where the direction of IBEC is involved, it will be derived to be dealt with by an external experienced committee and ultimately to the CERCA Ombudsperson.

Sanctions:

Sanctions against individuals will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and in any case, will be proportionate to the severity of the violation.

Sanctions depend on the seriousness of misconduct (intent, consequences, mitigating factors):

ranging from a written letter of reprimand or warning, retraction or correction of published papers, termination of a grant or exclusion of the individual from applying for further grants, to dismissal.

The entire process and possible consequent sanctions will help encourage good practices and reassure the public that IBEC takes the issue of research misconduct seriously.

IBEC commission for Research Integrity: roles and responsibilities

The Commission for Research Integrity has the following main responsibilities:

- promote and safeguard good research practice at IBEC.
- informing the collegiate body of the Ethical Channel as soon as possible on becoming aware of an actual or potential case of an unethical act or one that undermines scientific integrity.
- advising as a consultative and collaborating body, providing support in tasks related to the investigation and establishment of measures to prevent an unethical act or one that undermines scientific integrity.
- deal in collaboration with the Collegiate body with allegations of research misconduct and coordinate with the CERCA Ombudsperson.
- promote awareness and training for researchers at all career stages.
- monitor compliance with the Code and update it regularly.

The Commission is formed by a gender balanced team with the following members: the Director, the Managing Director, the Head of the Strategic Initiatives Unit, three Group Leaders, one senior researcher, one postdoctoral researcher and one PhD student.

The members of the Commission shall be appointed for a period of three years. One of the Commission members will be appointed as a Secretary.

The Secretary of the Commission will have the same responsibilities mentioned above plus:

- receive and manage in first instance the consultations made via email.
- prepare the report and guard records of the assessment of the allegation of misconduct and the investigation.

IBEC is committed to informing and making this Code available to the IBEC community.

The Code is published at IBEC's web page: https://ibecbarcelona.eu/about-us/mission-and-vision/

Contact email integrity@ibecbarcelona.eu communications via this email will be received by the Secretary of the Commission.

References

- The Code of Conduct of the CERCA Institute.
- The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, All European Academies (Allea).
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- Code of Good Scientific Practice. Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB).
- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Guidelines on good publication practice.
- Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, UNESCO.
- Code of Practice for Research. Promoting good practice and preventing misconduct. UK Research Integrity Office.
- Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research. UK Research Integrity Office.
- The Universal Ethical Code for scientists, 2007, UK Government office for science.
- Code of good scientific practice, National Center for Cardiovascular Research Foundation (CNIC)
- Research Ethics for Social Scientists, Mark Israel, Iain Hay.
- Institutional responses to violations of research integrity, The European Federation of National Academies of Sciencies and Humanities (Allea).
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- European Charter for Researchers

A MEMBER OF: bist

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