FOSTERING A CLIMATE OF RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR)

Faculty of Health Sciences

Area	Topic and Actions
Support	**Research environment:** • Research director – administrative support, support in generating Turnitin reports, critical readers. • Fair, transparent, and responsible assessment procedures during task agreements, appointments, and promotions. • Consultation services on research integrity related matters for researchers. • Counselling on research integrity related matters for researchers.
	Research study supervision: • Clear guidelines for study supervision i.e. Higher degrees manual. • Skills training for study supervision.
	Mentoring: • Postgraduate students. • Young scientists. • Ongoing throughout the career of a researcher.
Organization	**Research ethics structure:** • Establish and maintain a research ethics structure and clearly described SOPs. • Provide high quality ethics review processes by dedicated NHREC registered RECs. • Provide clear review guidelines for REC members and researchers. • Provide training for REC members on review and governance of research ethics. • Provide training for researchers on research ethics and administration.
	Scientific committee structure: • Establish and maintain a scientific committee structure and clearly described SOPs. • Provide high quality scientific review processes by research entity scientific committees. • Provide clear review guidelines for members and researchers. • Provide training for committee members on the review process. • Provide training for researchers on scientific review and administration.

	Integrated Research Integrity Management System (IRIMS):
	• Foster responsible conduct of research practices.
	  ➢ Organizational structures and practices.
	  ➢ Training opportunities for academics and postgraduate students.
	• Management of integrity breaches:
	  ➢ Formalized transparent procedures and processes.
	  ➢ Establish a standing committee for research integrity (SCRI).
	  ➢ Protect whistle-blowers.
	  ➢ Fairly handle those accused of breaches.
	  ➢ Establish a mentorship system for those found in breach of research integrity (restorative actions).
	
	Intra-faculty:
	• Restorative.
	• Intra-faculty disciplinary process.
	• Appeals process.
	
	Institutional:
	• Disciplinary.
	• Legal.
	• Referred back to IRIMS.

	Data practices and management: • Data management system (infrastructure) for secure data collection, storage, retention, archiving, and sharing. • Data management plan. • Curate and share according to FAIR principles. (FAIR = Findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable).
	Fair research assessment practices: • Clear examination guidelines. • Clear peer review guidelines.

Communication

Research collaboration:

- Establish sound rules for transparent working agreements.
- Have MOUs in place.
- Have MTAs in place for samples or data.
- Ensure that collaborators all have practices for protection of personal information in place.

Declaration of interests:

- Clear guidance on the universities approach to declaring interest and handling of conflict of interest.
- Ensure transparent declarations of interest (financial e.g. funding, personal interests or professional activities e.g. per review, evaluation, assessment, promotion, and collaboration).
- Ensure that conflicts are handled adequately.
- Clear guidelines for contract research.

Stakeholder/external organization communication:

- Guidance on the research integrity processes of the FHS

Publication and communication:

- Clear guidelines for authorship.
- Clear guidelines for publication practices.
- Ensure openness and clarity in public engagement.

Research ethics and research integrity webpage:

- Enhance communication with academics and postgraduate students.
- Provide resources on research integrity.

Training

Research ethics and research integrity training

Academics	***Postgraduate students***

• Introduction to research ethics (including review and administration).
• Introduction to research integrity (including review and administration).
• Responsible conduct of research.
• Research related policies, guidelines, and SOPs.
• Refresher courses on research methodology.
• Moral character development.
• Research project planning and management.
• On being a “good” scientist.
• Study supervision: How to become an effective study supervisor.
• Mentorship: How to be a mentor.
• Faculty of Health Sciences Research Mentorship Program.
• Future Professors’ Program for Mid-level Academics.
• RSA Future Professors’ Program (DHED).
• Peer review:
  ➢ Publications.
  ➢ Examination: Guidelines on how to examine.
  ➢ Scientific committee.
  ➢ Research ethics committee.
  ➢ Promotion.
  ➢ Grant applications.
  ➢ Etc .
• Plagiarism.
• Publication:
  ➢ Publication ethics.
  ➢ Authorship.
  ➢ Writing for publication.
• Data management.
• How to engage with the public on sharing research results.
	• Introduction to research ethics (including review and administration).
	• Introduction to research integrity (including review and administration).
	• Responsible conduct of research.
	• Research related policies, guidelines, and SOPs.
	• Research methodology.
	• Moral character development.
	• Research project planning and management.
	• Plagiarism.
	• On being a “good” student in research.
	• Scientific writing.