Rules of Scientific Integrity

Article One:

These rules apply to research funded within the framework of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Plan (NSTIP).

General Rules

Article Two: Key Principles

It is strictly prohibited for a researcher to:

1. Conduct, or participate in, any scientific research inconsistent with the Islamic values and ethics.
2. Use or employ scientific achievements against humanity.
3. Conduct scientific research with adverse impact on public health or the environment; if such research is necessary, such impact must be eliminated or reduced as much as possible.
4. Conduct research in a manner that derogates human dignity or is inconsistent with ethical principles and human values and customs.
5. Defend scientific issues in a manner devoid of facts, evidence and documented expertise and scientific references.
6. Utilize scientific capabilities and activities to the detriment of the current and future generations.

Article Three: Professional Principles

A researcher must abide by the following:

1. Seek transparency and credibility when selecting and conducting scientific research topics and themes, and dealing with proposed issues and challenges.
2. Avoid setting exaggerated time and financial requirements for scientific research, or the wasteful use of materials and supplies, or the misuse of available equipment and materials.
3. Present research results with honesty and transparency, and never conceal or cover negative results from anyone, or interpret results based on controversial hypothetical assumptions.
4. Follow laboratory safety instructions, procedures and rules, and preserve the safety of lab equipment, materials and staff.
5. Observe the instructions, regulations and laws pertaining to the research topic.
6. Comply with executive bylaws and regulations related to living creatures research ethics, and observe professional ethics when conducting research and experiments on human, animal or plant subjects.

Article Four: Research behavior

A researcher must observe the following:

1. Ensure quality performance, which should never be linked or associated with any type of moral or material incentive or reward.
2. Abstain from utilizing his/her research activity, or scientific concepts, or expertise for any sort of advertising or publicity for any personal goal, or any tribal, nationalistic, ethnic or other

affiliation, in violation of existing laws and regulations.

3. Avoid personal relationships and inclinations or subjective criticism during scientific discussions and debates, respecting the principle of mutual respect, regardless of scientific position or academic honors.
4. Refrain from accepting any invitation to conduct, or participate in conducting, any research when lacking sufficient professional or scientific expertise in the research domain, and seek to recommend the nomination of the needed qualified expert to conduct the research.
5. When tackling any topic or issue that is not within his/her area of expertise, the researcher must state his/her domain of specialization as well as his/her academic honors.
6. Never conceal information and information sources, nor restrict the exchange of opinions and ideas among expert researchers, inhibiting scientific research progress.
7. Never withhold any scientific findings from the party for which the research is being conducted.
8. Protect the rights of the research subject concerning the results of scientific research and the intellectual outputs found or revealed, and report such results to the party in question promptly. These results shall not be used in any manner that will serve the researcher's or other interests, without the prior written consent of the involved party.
9. Refrain from overstating research results as to mislead public opinion.

Article Five: Project team

The researcher must take the following into consideration with regard to the project team:

1. Encourage team work through research teams, rather than exclusively or selfishly conducting scientific research.
2. Nurture perseverance, serious work and healthy competition, as well as mutual respect among researchers of all kinds to support scientific research and ensure its continuity.
3. Allocate research work among team members so as to ensure exchange of expertise and work perfection, and individual development among research team members.
4. Select qualified and capable team members based on objective impartial criteria.

Copyright Rules

Article Six: Publishing

In terms of publishing, the researcher must commit to the following:

1. Abide by international and domestic copyright laws and regulations effective in the Kingdom, especially concerning obtaining prior written consent from the author or the publisher when considering translating a published work, partially or entirely, or republishing pictures or figures or other parts of the work.
2. Cite source(s) quoted or used by the author to write his/her published work wherever mentioned, as well as in the references list.
3. A scientific paper may not be simultaneously submitted to more than one party for publishing.
4. A scientific paper published in one particular scientific journal may not be published again elsewhere, nor can it be used in more than one scientific conference record or seminar without significant change or addition, unless so authorized by the publishing party and with reference

to the original reference or source where the paper was previously published.
5. Expressions of appreciation and gratitude to the funding party must be included, taking into consideration item (5) of Article Seven.

Article Seven: Rights of others

To protect the rights of others, a researcher must abide to the following:

1. When intending to publish scientific papers or research, or to participate in a conference or seminar, the researcher shall not omit the names of any participants in the research.
2. The names of researchers involved in joint research must be listed according to their actual contribution to that work. In case of equal contribution, names will be listed alphabetically, unless otherwise mandated by a mutual agreement.
3. Names of individuals who did not actually contribute to the published work shall not be listed in the credits.
4. Technicians, who contribute to the research activity with sample analysis or prototype design or editing and writing of results, as well as contributors with related opinions or commentary, must be recognized and their names listed among the list of authors, if their contribution is a major part of the published work.
5. A copyright agreement with the owner or the financial sponsor of the research project must be made and documented before the research activity is conducted, and upheld once the research is published.
6. The rights of society must be respected relating to the publication of scientific breakthroughs, and no attempts should be made to distort scientific facts or delay publishing of such facts.

Peer Review Guidelines

Article Eight: Referees must commit to do the following:

1. Express his/her opinion impartially with integrity when arbitrating research and scientific output or activity.
2. Present and referee research and scientific output or activity with the utmost secrecy and objectivity, and only to the extent of his/her expertise. He/she may recommend the nomination of any of his/her colleagues to perform in areas that do not fall within his/her expertise.
3. Submit his/her comments, opinions, criticism, instructions and results of additional tests, if available, related to the scientific research or output or activity being refereed, to the party requesting the peer review.
4. Evaluate and arbitrate academic thesis with utmost professionalism and objectivity, showing and recording comments and criticism of the thesis.
5. Refrain from participating in the evaluation or arbitration of the results of his/her own scientific research or activity outputs, or scientific research or activity outputs or any other scientific exercise he/she supervised, or was involved in the supervision thereof.
6. Refrain from participating in the peer review process of any research output, activity or project, or research project reports, for a person or a party to whom he/she is connected or related with any sort of inherent mutual interests.
7. If the referee identifies plagiarized material in the scientific material he/she is refereeing, or in case of any sort of scientific error, the referee is bound to indicate the plagiarized sections, along with the original source from which the material was illegally used. Likewise, in case of

any sort of scientific error, the referee must indicate the error with precision and honesty.

8. Accurately distinguish between redaction errors when citing the reference ina refereed material, and plagiarisms, and seek to demonstrate whether the error committed was intentional or the result of negligence and lack of expertise on behalf of the researcher whose work is being evaluated.

Violations of Scientific Integrity

Article Nine: Fabrication of scientific results

A researcher is prohibited from fabricating any sort of scientific results and falsely claiming that they are based on scientific research or experiments.

Article Ten: Falsification of scientific results

A researcher must present his/her scientific findings without distortion, or omission of deviating or irregular results from the actual results of scientific experiments conducted, in order to present the consistency often required by scientific journals.

Article Eleven: Overstating the significance and importance of findings

A researcher must refrain from directed scientific deception, including intentional focus on exhibiting content, or acknowledging implications that may be incidental and of poor significance, and treating them as if they were the equivalent of the rest of the results obtained over the general course of scientific research, as well as neglecting the significance of other data, that could, once disclosed, weaken the core idea of the research.

Article Twelve:

A researcher is prohibited from misrepresenting the work of others, partly or entirely, as his/her own, and from neglecting to cite the source of any idea.

Article Thirteen:

A researcher must avoid excessive use of scientific references or citations without recourse to these sources, as well as listing reference names to simply suggest having an extensive scientific background in his/her area of expertise, to establish among readers and referees the impression that he/she is knowledgeable in his/her area of expertise.

Article Fourteen: Intellectual exploitation

A researcher must refer to the efforts of others whose work is being utilized whether or not it was published, and refrain from adding any names of individuals who did not make a significant contribution to the scientific research in question.

Article Fifteen: Curriculum Vitae Misrepresentation

A researcher’s curriculum vitae must reflect the utmost accuracy and credibility, and personal achievements and expertise must not be exaggerated either to mislead others or to achieve profit.

Disciplinary actions concerning rules violations

Article Sixteen:

In the case of a suspected violation of the principles of scientific integrity, the Chairman of the NSTIP Preliminary Committee shall form a committee of three specialized experts to examine the violations of these rules. The formed committee may seek the assistance of any expert it deems necessary to carry out its duties.

Article Seventeen:

If the committee formed based on Article sixteen finds that scientific integrity guidelines have been violated, the General NSTIP Secretariat will take the following actions:

1. The General NSTIP Secretariat will cease cooperation with the researcher, whether he/she is a project researcher, an adviser or a research proposal evaluator for a period of 2 to 5 years.
2. The General NSTIP Secretariat will notify the body with which the researcher is affiliated of the researcher's malpractice, so it can take the necessary procedures applicable in that case or dictated by KSA law.
3. The body with which the researcher is affiliated will notify the General NSTIP Secretariat of the actions taken against the researcher.