

Extract from the Regulations

## **10 CODES AND RULES OF CONDUCT**

### **10.1 Code of Ethical Conduct**

#### **10.1.1 Honesty**

Members must not fabricate, falsify or misrepresent data or results. They should strive to be objective, unbiased and truthful in all aspects of their work.

When determining the credit for a piece of work, members should ensure that those who have made a significant contribution are given the opportunity to be cited as authors. Other individuals who have contributed to the study should also be acknowledged. Plagiarism constitutes unethical scientific behaviour and is never acceptable.

It is of course recognised that errors will occur from time to time. When an error is discovered in published or submitted work, the mistake should be admitted and a correction, erratum or retraction should be published.

Members have a duty, where they believe they have a professional or personal conflict of interest that may impair their ability to make objective judgements, to disclose such interests to the relevant authorities and to avoid making or influencing decisions that involve this conflict. Examples of conflicts of interest may include refereeing grant proposals when doing similar work and reviewing the work of collaborators.

Members must be honest when applying for grants, other funding and project approval. Making inflated claims for a project interferes with the objective evaluation of applications and can lead to an unfair and wasteful distribution of resources.

#### **10.1.2 Care**

Members should strive to avoid mistakes in research and professional practice and exercise due diligence in presenting high quality work in journals, reports, at conferences, and also in the public domain, for example to the press or on the internet. They should critically assess the likelihood of experimental, methodological and human errors and avoid self-deception and bias. Where possible they should conduct an internal review to assess the validity of their work before publication.

Members have a responsibility to record the source material of their experiments in an auditable manner for the purposes of scrutiny and verification.

- 10.1.3 Social Responsibility  
Members should consider how their work might be applied and, where appropriate, strive to alert the wider public of potential consequences.

Members have a responsibility to consider the potential hazards their work may carry and to inform those who fund their work, as well as others who might be affected, of such hazards

- 10.1.4 Guidance on Whistle Blowing  
In order for unethical behaviour in science to be uncovered it is important for those who believe they have witnessed misconduct to feel able to report it to the appropriate authorities. However, physicists who wish to bring to light unethical conduct may risk harming their own careers. The following guidelines should be observed before proceeding:

the motivation for reporting misconduct should not be for personal advance nor to impede a rival;

well-documented evidence is necessary before making accusations. Evidence should be more than hearsay or a personal observation;

accusations should be made to the relevant authorities and should only go outside the local authorities as a last resort; and

careful deliberation should take place before any action is taken. There should be no rush to judgement.

## 10.2 Rules of Conduct

- 10.2.1 Members must not fabricate, falsify or misrepresent data or results. They should strive to be objective, unbiased and truthful in all aspects of their work.

- 10.2.2 Members must be honest when applying for grants, other funding and project approval. Making inflated claims for a project interferes with the objective evaluation of applications and can lead to an unfair and wasteful distribution of resources.

- 10.2.3 Members shall do all in their power to ensure that their

professional activities do not unnecessarily put at risk the health, safety or welfare of any person.

- 10.2.4 Members shall have due regard for the environment and the sustainability of resources.
- 10.2.5 Members shall not recklessly or maliciously injure, or attempt to injure, directly or indirectly, the reputation, prospects or business of others
- 10.2.6 Members shall not purport to be experts in an area of physics in which they have insufficient qualifications or experience.
- 10.2.7 Members with chartered designations shall take reasonable steps to maintain and develop their professional competence and knowledge in relation to new developments relevant to their fields of professional activity and shall encourage persons working under their supervision to do likewise.
- 10.2.8 Members shall not bring the Institute into disrepute.