

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Scientific Integrity

Objective

The purpose of this policy is to define principles to ensure that all research and development activities funded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) are conducted according to the highest standards of integrity, clarity, and good management. CEPI-funded researchers and institutions must adhere to the highest ethics standards, and conform to requirements and guidance set out in this document and by national and international regulatory bodies, professional bodies, and local research ethics and governance frameworks.

Key definitions

Research misconduct: Behaviour or actions that fall short of the standards of ethics, research and scholarship required to ensure that the integrity of research is upheld. Research misconduct can take many forms, including (but not limited to) fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; failure to meet ethical, legal and professional obligations; and improper dealing with allegations of misconduct.

Fabrication: Making up data, results, or other outputs (e.g., artefacts) and presenting them as if they were real.

Falsification: Manipulating research materials or processes or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented.

Plagiarism: Using other people's ideas, processes, or material without giving proper credit.

Failure to meet ethical, legal and professional obligations: For example, failure to declare competing interests; misrepresentation of involvement or authorship; misrepresentation of interests; breach of confidentiality; lack of informed consent; misuse of personal data; and abuse of research subjects or materials.

Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct: Failing to address possible infringements such as attempts to cover up misconduct and reprisals against whistleblowers.

Policy statement

CEPI is committed to supporting high-quality, ethical research that complies with the highest standards of integrity. CEPI staff, supported investigators, and research partners should strive for the highest achievable standards in planning, conducting, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. They also should demonstrate integrity in their dealings with others.

CEPI will require that its awardees conduct their CEPI-funded programme according to similar principles.

For all CEPI-funded research:

Research misconduct:

- Plagiarism, deception, or the fabrication or falsification of results will be regarded as a serious disciplinary offence.
- CEPI will ensure scientific integrity and provide a swift and prudent response to any allegation of scientific misconduct (fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, conducting, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results).
- CEPI will require its research partners to have in place a transparent process to review any allegation of scientific misconduct and, if appropriate, investigate and report such allegations to the appropriate authorities. The process should safeguard, to the extent possible, the rights and confidentiality of the affected parties.
- Researchers should report cases of suspected misconduct in a responsible and appropriate manner.

Authorship and Publication:

- CEPI encourages partners to submit the results of all research it funds for publication in an open-access, peer-reviewed journal in a timely manner.
- Anyone listed as an author on a paper should accept responsibility for ensuring that he/she is familiar with the contents of the paper and can identify his/her contribution to it. Authorship should be based on the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations.
- The practice of honorary authorship is unacceptable.
- The contributions of formal collaborators and all others who directly assist or indirectly support the research should be properly acknowledged.

CEPI partners should refer to associated policies for additional guidance specifically related to clinical trials and animal research.

Current version	1.0
Approved by CEPI Board	January 2018
Owner	Senior Director, Vaccine Development
Flow through	Awardees
Linked documents	<p>Clinical Trials Policy</p> <p>Animal Research Policy</p> <p>Equitable access policy (see data sharing section)</p> <p>ICMJE Recommendations on Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors</p> <p>The concordat to support research integrity</p> <p>WHO Joint statement on public disclosure of results from clinical trials</p>
Past versions	N/A