

## Research misconduct:

The Kirkhouse Trust SCIO (KT) expects grantees, supervisors, institutions and other scientists affiliated to KT supported projects, to follow UK and international scientific research standards and follow scientific integrity principals.

The following policy and guidance is adapted from the '[UK Concordat to support research integrity](#)'.

KT has a zero-tolerance policy for research misconduct. Research misconduct means, but is not limited to, the doing, planning or attempting of any of the following while proposing, carrying out or reporting the results of research:

- **fabrication:** making up results or other outputs (reports, presentations or other documentation) and presenting them as if they were real,
- **falsification:** manipulating research processes or changing or omitting data without good cause to show a different outcome to the results,
- **plagiarism:** using other people's material without acknowledgement or permission from the author,
- **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,
- **distortion of:**
  - data, including the suppression of relevant results/ data or knowingly, recklessly or by gross negligence presenting a flawed interpretation,
  - a conflict of interests, failure to declare competing interests of both researcher or funders to a study,
  - qualifications, experience and/or credentials when applying for a grant,
  - publication history, via unrevealed duplication of publication,
- **failure to address allegations of misconduct:** the inappropriate censoring of parties, the failure to follow investigation procedures, leading to possible infringements, cover ups, reprisals against whistle-blowers.

As a funder and charity, KT has a duty to ensure to provide funding for scientific research that meets recognised standards of scientific integrity. KT utilises international scientific peer review to ensure the scientific integrity of the research KT supports. KT will investigate research misconduct and expect institutions, employers and researchers to investigate research misconduct. KT will seek fair scientific peer review to investigate research misconduct and KT reserves the right to terminate a grant and or funding support with immediate effect if peer consensus concludes research misconduct has occurred. KT considers research misconduct pertains to actions and research activities beyond the charity's direct support.

KT will offer what practical guidance is available as requested. Allegations will be treated confidentially respecting data management principals of GDPR.

November 2024