Research Ethics of the Korean BioChip Society

Established on March 20, 2013

Amended on January 31, 2020

We follow the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guideline as a general rule. For issues not addressed in the following statements, please refer to the COPE guideline.[1]

Code 1 (Object)

We, the Korean BioChip Society, establish this code of research ethics to avoid scientific misconduct and to encourage implementation of research integrity in the leadership and organizations of science. Furthermore, we will take appropriate actions according to the procedure of these research ethics if any ethical issue is found.

Code 2 (Subject)

We are to apply research ethics to all the researchers and articles that are submitted to our journal, BioChip Journal, and to any symposium or conference reports by the Korean BioChip Society.

Code 3 (Definition of Scientific Misconduct)

We strongly are against scientific misconduct defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism (FFP) in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.[2] Also authors should declare that the study was not presented and/or submitted to other scientific journals, in part or as a whole. In cases where all or parts of the research materials were previously reported, researchers should mention this in the manuscript with appropriate citations.

Code 4 (Research Ethics Committee)

We have established a research ethics committee composed of associate editors, and they are authorized to monitor and control research ethical issues.

Code 5 (Peer Review)

We have an active peer review process by which an author or authors submit a written manuscript or article to BioChip Journal and by which the journal editor distributes the article to reviewers who are working in the same or similar scientific area. When suggesting reviewers for a submitted manuscript, authors should not suggest reviewers who might cause prejudice to the manuscript because of a personal or professional connection.

Code 6 (Animal Welfare Act)

Researchers must take responsibility for protecting the animals used in testing and teaching. In addition, they have to insure that tested animals are for the study of human care and treatment.[3]

Prior to conducting a study using animals, researchers should consider the 3R principle: Replace, Reduce, and Refine.[4] The research protocol should be approved by local or public ethical committees.

Code 7 (Research with Human Subjects and/or Human Derived Materials - informed consent)

First, all the researchers have to respect human beings. According to this principle, research participants must voluntarily give informed consent to research participation. When it is not possible to get informed consent, researchers should follow appropriate guidelines to conduct the research. Subjects need to know what they will be involved in before they commit and must consent after being informed of the research to be done.

All research using human subjects and/or human derived materials must be approved by ethical committees with the appropriate authorities and capabilities. Researchers should present documents regarding subject approval on reasonable request from the editorial board.

Code 8 (Research with Human Subjects and/or Human Derived Materials - Privacy and confidentiality)

Privacy and confidentiality are very important components of research involving human subjects. To protect human subjects, information gathered from research participants must be treated with strict confidentiality and then discarded after completion of the study according to approved procedures.

Code 9 (Data Management)

In respect to research ethics, all data have to be the

result of truthful collection of reliable data and have to be retained and shared with colleagues and the public on reasonable request.

Code 10 (Authorship)

All authors should contribute to the study based on the following criteria[5]: 1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; 2) Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; 3) Final approval of the version to be published; and 4) Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Anyone who does not meet the criteria should not be claimed as author and anyone who meets the criteria should not be excluded from authorship. The corresponding author(s) is primarily responsible for the integrity of all the data, completion of research, ethical issues, and all financial issues related to the research.

Code 11 (Conflict of Interest)

The corresponding author(s) should disclose any conflict of interests in designing, conducting, and publishing the study in financial, emotional, personal and/or professional domains. These issues should be addressed in a separate disclosure form.

Code 12 (Research Purpose)

Ultimately, all research must contribute to the good of society.

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[1]Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE: https://publicationethics.org/)

[2]The Office of Scientific and Technology Policy

[3]University of Minnesota the Academic Health Center

[4]Ethical Guidelines for the Use of Animals in Research

[5]International Committee of Medical Journal Editors