

Definition of Research Misconduct

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Unfortunately, a single definition of research misconduct does not exist, although most of them include falsification, fabrication and plagiarism. In 2000, representatives of medical councils, professional societies, foundations and industry joined at “**a Conference on Misconduct in Biomedical Research**” and issued a broader definition that states “Behavior by a Resea-rcher intentional or not that falls short of good ethical and scientific standards”.

Britain’s largest biomedical charity “**The welcome Trust**” defines misconduct as;

“Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or deception in proposing, carrying out, or reporting results of research or deliberate, dangerous or negligent deviations from accepted practices in carrying out research. It includes failure to follow established protocols if this failure results in unreasonable risk or harms to humans, other vertebrates, or the environment and facilitating of misconduct in research by collusion in, or concealment of, such actions by others. It also includes intentional, unauthorized use, disclosure, or removal or damage to research related property of another including apparatus, materials, writing, data, hardware or software or any other substances or devices used in the conduct of research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in the design, execution, interpreta-tion or judgment in evaluating research methods or results or misconduct unrelated to the research process. Similarly it does not

include poor research unless this encompasses the intention to deceive”.

In 2000, the “White House Office of Science and Technology Policy”, issued a federal definition of research misconduct. In April 2002 US National Science Foundation (NSF) adopted this policy and released following NSF definition;

“Research Misconduct” means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing or performing research funded by NSF, reviewing research proposals submitted to NSF, or in reporting research results funded by NSF.

- (1) Fabrication means making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
- (2) Falsification means manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes. Or changing or omitting data or results such that research is not accurately represented in the research record.
- (3) Plagiarism means the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results or words without giving appreciate credit.
- (4) Research, for purposes of paragraph (a) of this section, includes proposals submitted to NSF in all fields of sciences, engineering, mathematics, and education and results from such proposals.
- (5) Research misconduct does not include honest error or difference of opinion.



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