

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN CODE FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

4. Researchers should respect the right of individuals to refuse to participate in research and to withdraw their participation without prejudice to them at any stage.
5. Researchers must protect participants against foreseeable physical, psychological or social harm or suffering which might be experienced in the course of the research. Researchers should be especially sensitive in their protection of the rights and interests of more vulnerable participants, such as children and the aged. When there is risk of harm, discussion of this with participants or their guardians must precede the research and be included in the informed consent procedure. No research should be undertaken on such vulnerable subjects if the required information can be obtained by other means.
6. Information obtained in the course of research which may reveal the identity of a participant is confidential unless the participant agrees to its release.

Researchers and society as a whole

The University is committed to conducting research which will contribute to health and quality of life and which strives to serve humanity and South African society as a whole rather than any sectional interests.

The University of Cape Town recognises society's right of timely access to research findings and to open debate on their implications.

Researchers and the sponsors of research

Research, which is undertaken on behalf of sponsors, is subject to the usual conventions of contract research. Remuneration arrangements for subjects and researchers should be outlined in the contract. Conflicts of interest should be avoided, and all researchers should be asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest. Interference on the part of sponsors, which may jeopardise the integrity of the research, is not acceptable.

Information which reveals the identity of individual participants in the research will not be supplied to the sponsors other than with the permission of individual research subjects.

In its dealings with the sponsors of research, UCT is committed to upholding the principle that findings should be made responsibly and freely available to the public within a specified and limited timeframe.

UCT is committed to upholding this code, but recognises that as research is a human endeavour it is also dependent on discretionary decisions for which individual researchers must accept ethical and scholarly responsibility. The scholarly and ethical standards of researchers are central to the research endeavour and efforts to sustain and develop these are integral components of research at the University of Cape Town. This code and the more detailed versions available within Medicine* and other disciplines aim to be more educative than coercive; but minimal procedural standards must also be set.

Ethical reasoning requires thought, insight and sensitivity. As with scholarly work, peer review is important. In the case of ethics, peer review includes the larger intellectual community, society at large, and research subjects.

Seeking ethical

approval should be seen as an opportunity for informed ethical reflection and discussion with ethical peers.

In this spirit approval will be required in terms of the principles of this Code of Research, as supplemented by specific disciplinary codes, for;

- (i) all research projects undertaken by staff and students of the University involving the participation of human subjects;
- (ii) all research projects undertaken by staff and students of the University being likely to have significant social consequences;
- (iii) all research projects by researchers external to the university involving the members of the University as subjects.

from the Faculty committees charged with responsibility for research ethics and reporting to the Code of Ethics for Researchers Committee.

*See Medical Research Guidelines on Ethics for Medical Research (SA Medical Research Council, 1993)