



**CODE OF ETHICS
FOR
ACADEMIC UNITY
OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
"PROF. DR. PARASKEV STOYANOV" – VARNA**

Adopted by decision of the Academic Council of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna on June 18, 2018 (Minutes № 36 / June 18, 2018)

The mission of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Ivanov Stoyanov” - Varna (the University) is to generate new fundamental and applied knowledge through specialized scientific and interdisciplinary research, training researchers, encouraging excellence in innovative research projects by supporting scientists in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and public health, education and health care.

In fulfilling its mission, the University shares the understanding that without professional and scientific ethics, there can be no effective activity that would be in harmony with the human values established in the European and international scientific community, as well as with the principles of scientific activities, enshrined in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Section I. General

Scope

Art. 1. This Code sets out the rules of conduct for the academic community of the University.

Tasks

Art. 2. This Code contributes to forming an organizational culture to promote the good name of the University and to increase the public confidence in the professionalism and morale of its professors and scientists.

Core Values

Art.3. In the implementation of the educational, research, administrative and service activities, the University is guided by the core values:

- a) honesty and integrity;
- b) lawfulness and impartiality;
- c) loyalty and collegiality;
- d) competence and confidentiality.

Section II Basic Principles

Freedom of Research

Art. 4. Research expands the boundaries of scientific knowledge. Every scientist enjoys freedom of thought and expression and is free to choose the methods of solving scientific problems in accordance with established ethical standards, without violating other people's personal space and dignity.

Professional responsibility

Art. 5. (1) Researchers at the University ensure that their research is contributive and does not infringe the copyright of any other previously conducted research.

- (2) Deliberate announcing of false research results is not allowed.
- (3) Plagiarism is not allowed. Researchers recognize and respect the contributions of the other researchers and adhere to the rules of correct quoting of the sources.
- (4) Researchers respect the intellectual property and shared ownership of the information, in cases where the research is conducted in conjunction with others.
- (5) The research team leaders entrust research to persons of whom they are convinced that such persons have the competence to carry out the research.

Professional attitude

Art. 6. (1) Researchers know the strategic goals in the respective research field and the mechanisms for funding any scientific and applied projects. They should receive the necessary approval before starting their implementation or using the resources provided.

- (2) The University provides a research-friendly environment, including appropriate equipment, facilities and opportunities, including for cooperation in the scientific network, as well as for mobility in connection with research.

Application of good research practices

Art. 7. (1) In the process of practical research, researchers apply safety practices, including for their own health, and ensure security in the use of information and communication technologies.

- (2) Researchers and the University, through the Research Ethics Committee (REC), pay particular attention to specific ethical issues related to research in humans, tissues and cells, as well as to the research impacts on the environment.

Personal data protection

Art. 8. Researchers know and comply with the national, European and internal rules governing their work, including the intellectual property rules. They must be familiar with the legal requirements for the protection of personal data and classified information and comply with them.

Objectivity and impartiality in reviewing

Art. 9. The authors of reviews of research projects and scientific papers have the same responsibility as the authors of scientific publications. The reviews should be competent and thorough, and based on an objective and impartial assessment of the quality of the research projects and research papers.

Reliability of research outcomes

Art. 10. (1) Researchers shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the outcomes of their research are accessible and applied. Scientific publications are one of the important ways to disseminate the research outcomes and the authors are responsible for the accuracy of the publications and the results published in them.

- (2) When publishing the outcomes of joint research activity, the real contribution of each researcher must be specified, according to the work performed by them. Only persons who

have a real contribution to the conduct of the research, to the generation, analysis and application of the results, or to the writing of the respective author's text are indicated as co-authors.

Mutual respect and esteem for personal and professional dignity in the training of the PhD students

Art. 11. (1) During their studies, the PhD students must be in constant contact with their research supervisors. The progress in the work and the results of the research as well as the feedback received through reports and seminars must be documented.

(2) Regardless of the various roles played in the process of education, the supervisors and the PhD students build their relations based on mutual respect and esteem of personal and professional dignity.

Compliance with the ethics in the scientific supervision and the research management

Art. 12. Researchers, established as scientific supervisors and project coordinators, perform their tasks according to the highest professional and ethical standards. Accordingly, they should build a constructive and positive relationship in research with novice scientists in order to provide conditions for efficient knowledge transfer and successful development of their independent scientific careers.

Continuing professional development

Art. 13. At every stage of their careers, researchers strive for development by constantly updating and expanding their skills and competencies. This can be achieved through various means such as seminars, conferences, training, etc.

Responsibility to the community

Art. 14. Researchers at the University are aware of their responsibility to the community and the importance of the research they conduct. They are required to present their research and the results thereof accurately and in a way that can be understood by non-specialists, thus contributing to the improvement of public understanding of scientific and applied research in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and public health, education and health care.

Section III

Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity

Tasks and structure of the Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity

Art.15. (1) A Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity is established at the University to solve ethical problems that have arisen in the process of research and training.

(2) The Committee has the task of providing advice and recommendations on ethical issues, as well as to investigate any reports of violations or complaints related to the principles of this Code.

(3) The functions, structure and organization of work of the Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity are set out by the Committee Rules of Procedure.

Appointment

Art. 16. (1) The Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity consists of 5 members - 4 habilitated persons, one of whom is appointed Chairman and Legal Adviser.

(2) The Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity is appointed by the Rector of the University for a period of four years. Members of the University Management cannot be appointed to the Committee.

(3) Appointment of the members to the Committee shall be based on their personal and professional qualities and competences.

Duties of the Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity

Art. 17. (1) In its activities, the Committee is guided by this Code, the Rules on the Functions, Structure and Organization of the Work of the Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity and the laws of the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) The Committee takes its decisions independently from the administrative management of the University. The Committee accepts and investigates in strict confidence any reports on violations by members of the academic staff of the rules of good academic practice as set out in this Code of Ethics. If any violation is established, the Committee recommends measures to be taken according to the gravity of such violation.

(3) The Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity has the right to evaluate the ethical aspects of the research projects and to implement monitoring on the research in accordance with the established ethical principles in the Code of Ethics and all relevant acts.

(4) At the end of each calendar year, the Committee for Ethics and Academic Unity submits a summarized report on its activities and develops proposals and recommendations for development and improvement.

IV. Final provisions

§ 1. When taking an academic position at the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” - Varna, every employee is required to read and understand the provisions of this Code.

§ 2. In case of non-compliance with the provisions of this Code of Ethics, the lecturers and employees bear moral and disciplinary liability in accordance with the Regulations of the University and the Labor Code.

§ 3. This Code enters into force on the day of its approval by the Academic Council of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” - Varna.