



Research Integrity Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Policy

The Al-Mahdi Institute is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of research integrity across all research activities and endeavors. This policy sets the expected standards of research integrity for all researchers affiliated with the Institute.

1.2 Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all research conducted by individuals under the auspices of Al-Mahdi Institute, encompassing staff, postgraduate research students, independent contractors, consultants, visiting scholars, and any other research collaborators.

1.3 Who is Covered by the Policy

All individuals conducting research under the banner of Al-Mahdi Institute, irrespective of their role, funding source, research area, experience level, or research location.

1.4 Breach of this Policy

Breaches of this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Research Misconduct Policy. Serious breaches may result in disciplinary actions, including potential dismissal.

1.5 Policy Ownership

This policy is approved by the Research Committee, with the Managing Director as the Executive Sponsor and the Head of Research Integrity as the Officer responsible for the policy.

2. Policy Statement

The Al-Mahdi Institute is committed to ensuring research integrity through the following guiding principles:

- **Excellence:** Researchers are expected to strive for excellence when conducting their research, aiming to design, conduct, produce, and disseminate work of the highest quality and ethical standards.
- **Honesty & Accountability:** Researchers must be honest in respect of their own actions and in their responses to the actions of others. This applies to the whole range of research activity, including applying for funding, experimental and protocol design, generating, recording, analyzing, and interpreting data, publishing and exploiting results, acknowledging the direct and indirect contributions of colleagues, collaborators, and others, and reporting cases of suspected misconduct in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- **Openness & Transparency:** Researchers must be open when conducting and communicating their research, subject to the terms and conditions of any research contracts, the protection of intellectual property and commercial exploitation, and the Institute's IP Policy. This includes the disclosure of any conflicts of interest, the reporting of research data collection methods, the analysis and interpretation of data,

making all research findings widely available, disseminating research in a way that will have the widest impact, and promoting public engagement/involvement in research.

- **Rigour:** Researchers must be thorough and meticulous in performing their research. Care must be taken to use the appropriate methods, to adhere to an agreed protocol, when drawing interpretations and conclusions from the research, and when communicating the results.
- **Safety:** All research should be conducted in a manner which, so far as is reasonably practicable, is safe for researchers, participants, the Institute, and the environment. Researchers must familiarize themselves with, and comply with, the obligations set down by the Institute in its Health and Safety Policy and Procedures.
- **Ethical Responsibility:** Researchers should have respect for all participants in, and subjects of, research including humans, animals, the environment, and cultural objects. The Institute expects all researchers to consider the ethical implications of their research and to be aware of their responsibilities to society, the environment, their profession, the Institute, research participants, and the organization(s) funding the research in accordance with the Institute Research Ethical Principles and Procedures.
- **Responsible Management:** Established researchers are responsible for nurturing researchers of the future, fostering a constructive and supportive environment without undue pressure, and ensuring that appropriate supervision, mentoring, and training are provided.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Researchers are expected to make themselves aware of, and comply with, any legislation or regulations that govern their research. This may include, but is not limited to, General Data Protection Regulation, Data Protection Act 2018, AMI's Data Protection Policies and Procedures, and Records Management Policy and Procedures.
- **Professional Standards:** Researchers should observe the standards of practice set out in guidelines published by professional societies, funding agencies, and other relevant bodies, where appropriate and available. They must ensure that they have the necessary skills and training to conduct the research.
- **Reporting Research Misconduct:** Researchers should be aware of the extreme seriousness of research misconduct. Staff and students at the Institute have an obligation to report suspected research misconduct in accordance with the Institute's Research Misconduct Policy.

3. Relationship to Existing Policies

This policy should be read and implemented in conjunction with other relevant Al-Mahdi Institute policies, including but not limited to:

- Research Ethical Principles and Procedures
- Health and Safety Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Data Management and Protection Policies
- IT Security Policy

4. Implementation and Review

The Al-Mahdi Institute will ensure that this policy is disseminated to all relevant parties and will provide appropriate training and resources to support its implementation. The policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in promoting research integrity.



Policy approved by the Board of Trustees on: 01/10/2023

Policy due for review: 01/10/2024