



The AIRC policy on research integrity

AIRC recognizes that scientific research conducted to the highest standards of integrity is essential to ensure high quality, reproducible and trustworthy results. AIRC supports the principles and guidelines on research integrity set out by the All European Academies federation ([European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#)), and trusts that the scientific endeavors of researchers funded by AIRC are driven by common values of rigor, honesty and responsibility.

Based on these premises, personnel (scientific and administrative staff) involved in a research project funded by AIRC is expected to comply with ethical principles of good scientific practice and engage in honest behavior. In particular, research centers where scientists conduct AIRC-funded research must:

1. Promote principles of rigor, honesty and integrity in research, e.g. by establishing and implementing rules of good scientific practice; setting up guidelines to properly manage, store and archive original data and images; mentoring junior scientists and offering them training opportunities on responsible conduct of research.
2. Have in place a formal, written policy for preventing and dealing with scientific misconduct. AIRC reserves the right to request a copy of such document. Scientific misconduct, i.e. a deliberately dishonest behavior against standards of integrity, rigor and good scientific practice, includes but is not limited to: fabrication, falsification, omission or improper representation of scientific results; plagiarism; violation of ethical standards and protocols for human subject or animal research. Scientific misconduct does not include honest, unintentional errors. The policy should describe: the procedures and timescales for enquiries and investigations; possible sanctions in case of proven misconduct; how an appeal can be made; the procedures to ensure the confidentiality of the investigation and of all parties involved.
3. Investigate allegations of scientific misconduct. In case of allegations involving researchers funded by AIRC, the institution should notify AIRC and keep it informed. AIRC reserves the right to suspend the grant during the investigation and, in case the allegations are upheld, to impose sanctions that may include: the termination of the grant; the obligation to return grant money to AIRC; the ineligibility to apply to AIRC grants; the exclusion from AIRC review panels and other bodies.