

Regulations on the Research Ethics of the Korean Pain Research Society

Enacted on January 1, 2010

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL RULES

Article 1 (Purposes) These regulations are aimed at setting forth matters on the establishment and operation of the Research Ethics Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) in order to establish the research ethics of the Korean Pain Research Society (hereinafter referred to as “the Society”) members and to verify unfair research activities, if any, on a quick, fair and systematic basis.

Article 2 (Target persons) These regulations shall apply to all the members of the Society.

Article 3 (Definition of terms)

- ① “Unfair research activities” refer to forging, falsifying, and plagiarizing research content, including inappropriate authors, by intention or mistake, regardless of research objectives in the process of proposing, performing, and publishing the research, as follows.
 - “*Forging*” means reporting the research data or results, etc. that do not really exist but have been fabricated.
 - “*Falsifying*” means distorting research contents or results by changing research data, processes, and results dishonestly.
 - “*Plagiarizing*” means using the research ideas, processes, results, etc. of any other person without citing the source. It is also considered plagiarism if an author publishes his or her own research results repeatedly.
 - “*Inappropriate authors*” means the author to include an individual’s name as author who has not contributed significantly to either the research or contents of a paper as a token of gratitude or for reason of honorable treatment, etc. For example, it is unacceptable to include senior members of a research group, chairs of academic departments, or representatives of the commercial sponsor, if they do not meet the above requirements. It is unacceptable to exclude some members who are involved in the study design, execution of the study, data analysis, and preparation of the manuscript without right reason. Manuscripts are received with the understanding that they have been written by the authors; ghost-written papers are unacceptable.
- ② An informant means a person who has informed the Society of the facts or evidence regarding unfair research activities.
- ③ An examinee means a person who has become a target of examination regarding unfair research activities based on information from an informant or the Society’s recognition.
- ④ The main examination means a procedure to prove whether the suspicion for any unfair research activity is true or not.

- ⑤ “Judgment” means a procedure to determine examination results and to communicate the results to the informant and the examinee in written form.

CHAPTER 2 ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Article 4 (Functions) The Committee shall deliberate and decide matters of the following clauses regarding the research ethics of Society members:

- ① Establishment of research ethics;
- ② Prevention and examination of unfair research activities, and examination;
- ③ Protection of informants and maintenance of confidentiality;
- ④ Verification of research ethics violation, determination of appropriate action, and implementation of follow-up measures;
- ⑤ Measures to restore examinees’ honor;
- ⑥ Other matters presented by the Committee chairman for discussion;
- ⑦ Protection of informant’s rights and reputation from punitive action by anyone;
- ⑧ Activities generally not permitted in the medical community.

Article 5 (Composition)

- ① The Committee shall be appointed from seven (7) or more publishing commissioners and academic commissioners.
- ② The chairman shall represent the Committee and be a publishing director. His or her office term shall be the same as that of the publishing director.
- ③ One secretary may be appointed to assist in all activities of the Committee and shall be designated by the chairman.
- ④ The chairman may appoint expert commissioners as needed, following advice of the Committee.

Article 6 (Meeting)

- ① The chairman will convene and preside over meetings as needed.
- ② Unless there is any special exception, the majority of commissioners will be required to attend each meeting. A decision will be made by a majority vote of the commissioners attending the meeting. The chairman is required to attend all meetings and may be considered in counting a majority of members. However, the chairman may not vote in making decisions.
- ③ When necessary, the Committee may ask the person concerned to attend the meeting and express his or her opinions.
- ④ In principle, the meeting shall not be disclosed.
- ⑤ A commissioner being investigated shall not attend the meeting.

Article 7 (Rights and responsibilities of the Committee)

- ① The Committee may ask informants, examinees, witnesses, and other persons to attend and submit materials.
- ② If an examinee refuses to attend a meeting or to submit materials without reasonable explanation, it may be determined to be an admission of guilt.

- ③ The Committee may take appropriate measures to prevent the destruction, concealment, or falsification etc. of the research records or evidence relevant to the case.
- ④ A commissioner shall keep the matters relating to deliberation confidential.

CHAPTER 3 VERIFICATION OF RESEARCH ETHICS VIOLATION

Article 8 (Report and reception of unfair activities) An informant may report any unfair research activity to the Society Secretariat or the Publishing Committee Secretariat personally, by phone, in written form, by email, etc. He or she shall give his or her real name, but even an anonymous report shall be regarded as a real-name one, if it includes a title of an article (a research project) and specific contents and evidence of the unfair activity in written form or by email.

Article 9 (Investigation of unfair activities)

- ① In case of any specific report or considerable suspicion of an unfair activity, the Committee (chairman) shall begin a preliminary investigation to decide whether it is necessary to investigate the suspicious activity within thirty (30) days from the date on which the report is received. The Committee may pass judgment immediately without a main investigation procedure, if an examinee admits to the charge.
- ② The main investigation, which means a procedure to prove whether the charge is true or not, shall be performed by the investigation Committee organized in accordance with the provisions of Article 5. The report on investigation results shall include the objections or pleadings of an informant and an examinee and their Committee's results.

Article 10 (Request of attendance and data submission)

- ① The Committee may ask an informant, an examinee, a witness, and other persons to attend a meeting to state their opinions. In this case, the examinee must comply with the request. If the person concerned does not comply with the request, the Committee shall consider them to be in agreement with the case.
- ② The Committee may ask the examinee to submit materials relevant to the case. The Committee will possess and secure the materials with the approval of the research institution involved.

Article 11 (Protection of the rights of an informant and examinee and secrecy)

- ① The identity of an informant shall not be disclosed directly or indirectly in any case. Attention shall be paid to the protection of the honor and rights of an examinee until a judgment has been reached by the Committee.
- ② All the matters under investigation shall be kept confidential, and any person that participates in the investigation directly or indirectly shall not reveal the information acquired during the investigation and the performance of their duties related to the case. However, if there is any necessity for reasonable disclosure,

information may be disclosed upon approval by the Committee.

Article 12 (Assurance of objections and excuses) The Committee shall give sufficient opportunities for objections and explanations to an examinee that has been charged with a violation of research ethics.

Article 13 (Judgment)

- ① The Committee shall complete all the procedures of investigation from a preliminary investigation to judgment within two (2) months.
- ② Judgment of ethics violations shall be rendered at a meeting of a majority of the Committee members with an approval of at least 2/3 of the commissioners present.

CHAPTER 4 FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Article 14 (Follow-up activities) If the suspicion of the ethics violation is judged to be true, the Committee may apply one or more sanctions to the person concerned with the approval of the Board of Directors as follows:

- ① Reprimand and sending of a warning letter;
- ② Sending of an official letter to the director of the organization involved or the research funding organization;
- ③ Publishing of a notice to cancel the article including author's name, article title, volume (No.) of the journal involved, date and reasons of cancellation, etc.;
- ④ Deletion and nullification of the article involved from the journal and the indexing organization;
- ⑤ Prohibition for the author, the research team, or the research organization responsible for the violation to contribute manuscripts for certain periods (chief author: three years; other authors: one year);
- ⑥ The Committee may deprive a person of his or her membership in the Society if the person intentionally or erroneously gives an untrue report or makes a false accusation regarding the research ethics of another researcher.

Article 15 (Notification) The Chairman shall immediately send written notification of the decision of the Committee to the persons concerned, including the informant and the examinee.

Article 16 (Appeal) The examinee or the informant may appeal the Committee's decision in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date on which he or she receives the notification of the Committee's decision.

Article 17 (Follow-up measures, including honor restoration) If the examinee is found innocent of ethics violation, the Committee may take appropriate follow-up measures, to restore the honor of an examinee.

Article 18 (Custody and disclosure of records)

- ① The records relating to investigations shall be kept for five (5) years from the date on which the investigation is finished.
- ② At the conclusion of a case, the judgment shall be reported to the Standing Board of Directors of the Society. If the Committee concludes that it may cause harm to the participants, it may resolve to keep their identities confidential.

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Article 1 (Date of enforcement) These regulations shall be in effect beginning January 1, 2010.

Article 2 (Statute of limitations) Ethics violations that occurred five (5) years prior to the date of the report of the violation will not be addressed. The Committee may consider exceptions of unusual merit.

Article 3 (Research ethics education) The Society will provide education once per year on the standards of research ethics. This training will include information regarding the scope, countermeasures, and verification procedures of ethics violations.

Article 4 (Miscellaneous) Matters unstipulated in these regulations shall follow the medical paper publication ethics guidelines formulated by the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors (KAMJE) (See http://kamje.or.kr/publishing_ethics.html).