



Heart & Stroke

Research Integrity Policy

The primary objective of Heart & Stroke's Research Integrity Policy is to protect and defend the integrity of the research process and to deal with allegations of scientific misconduct in a timely and transparent fashion. Responsibilities of researchers, institutions and the Heart & Stroke with respect to research integrity are outlined in the **Heart & Stroke: Responsible Conduct of Research** (<http://www.hsf.ca/research/en/node/800>).

As a condition of funding, all Heart & Stroke grant and award recipients agree to comply with the Principles and Responsibilities set out in that policy, and the research misconduct provisions below.

Heart & Stroke defines research misconduct to include actions that are inconsistent with "integrity" as defined by the Framework, and to include such actions as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.¹

Heart & Stroke will deal with allegations of scientific misconduct in the following manner:

- Any allegation of scientific misconduct will be initially reviewed by the Heart & Stroke to determine whether an investigation is warranted. If it is felt that an investigation is required, the Heart & Stroke may request that this be conducted by the host institution of the individual considered to have performed the alleged misconduct. In allegations specifically related to the peer review process, the investigation may be conducted jointly by the institution and the Heart & Stroke.
- Heart & Stroke will not act on verbal allegations of misconduct. All allegations must be submitted in writing. Although the confidentiality of persons who submit an allegation of scientific misconduct will be protected as much as possible, it must be recognized that due process will often result in the identity of this person being released to the investigating institution.
- The institution will be required to submit a written report upon conclusion of the investigation. This report will summarize the findings of the investigation and any future actions that will be undertaken by the institute as a result of the findings.
- In cases where misconduct is concluded to have occurred, the Heart & Stroke may apply sanctions against the individual(s) implicated. These sanctions will range from a reprimand letter to a ban from applying for or holding Heart & Stroke funds for a set period of time.

¹ Wording adopted from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct, Final Rule. May 17, 2005. Definitions are available from. <https://ori.hhs.gov/definition-misconduct>