

Standards of Conduct for Scientists at Gunma University

April 1, 2007

By Presidential Arbitration

In order to expand our multidisciplinary and integrated perspective on the 21st century and make a significant response to the diversified needs on a global scale, Gunma University aspires to create new knowledge in accordance with the demands of the times and community by developing original scientific research as well as attempting to establish a fusion between fundamental science and practical research. For these reasons, as science professionals involved in pursuing abstract scientific principles and their applications, all scientists engaged in scientific research activities in Gunma University must assume the responsibility to act with integrity and in good faith in order to maintain the confidence bestowed upon them by the community. Through sound growth, and in order for science to be able to contribute to the realization of a truly abundant human community, our scientists must carry out their work by establishing ethical standards that allow their personal professional activities to be accurately judged with total accountability to this community. Gunma University hereby institutes the following code of conduct from the perspective of this fundamental awareness, and based upon the autonomy of the individual scientists who are attached to our university.

1. Scientists must maintain constant efforts to continue to elevate the quality of professional knowledge and technology that they produce. Through applications of the results they achieve, scientists can shoulder the responsibility of contributing to the welfare of mankind and the growth of the community.
2. Scientists must be aware that on the basis of the trust and mandate of their community they are able to enjoy the benefits of pursuing truth through their own professional judgments under the auspices of academic freedom, and they must always make their judgments and carry out their work with integrity. Also, they must strive to objectively and scientifically substantiate the validity of the knowledge that they generate through scientific research, and to actively participate in mutual assessments of their fellow scientists in their specialized field.

3. When scientists form their plans, create their designs, consider all possible applications, carry out the implementation and prepare the reports of their own research projects, they must conduct their activities with integrity and in strict adherence with the spirit of these standards of conduct. In order for the community and fellow scientists to be able to carry out their mutual appraisal and criticism, scientists must bear the burden of responsibility for maintaining the transparency of scientific premises, not to mention the prevention of any fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in their research data. Furthermore, they must undertake the task of firmly and positively confirming the equitability of the research environment in order to make it possible to conduct responsible research and prevent any fraudulent activity in the execution of research.
4. Scientists must adhere strictly to the legal imperatives and related regulations regarding the implementation of their research and the utilization of research funding.
5. With regard to their own judgments and activities, scientists must always pay heed to any conflicts of interest that might arise between individuals and organizations or between differing organizations, and appropriately respond to them with an emphasis on the public interest. Furthermore, they must justly appraise the accomplishments of others, and adhere strictly to the protection of honor and intellectual property rights of others.