

WFPICCS Taskforce on ETHICS



Ethical Code of the WFPICCS Officers and Directors

INTRODUCTION

The vision of the World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies (WFPICCS) is to create a global environment where all children have access to a high standard of intensive (critical) care through the promotion of research and education, and the distribution of knowledge across international borders. The mission is exclusively educational, scientific and charitable in nature.

The following principles provide a ethical framework that encourage WFPICCS board members (officers and directors) and WFPICCS members to act responsibly and ethically. These ethical standards are expressed in general terms. They are not exhaustive, nor absolute. They can only provide guidance, rules of conduct and standards of behaviour within the context of practice of Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive or Critical Care provided by physicians, nurses and allied health professionals. The following criteria regard both the individuals elected as Officers and/or Directors in the Federation, and the Organizations that are members of the Federation.

ETHICAL GUIDELINES GUIDING THE CONDUCT OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Officers and Directors are elected according to the WFPICCS by-laws. Their role is to manage the property and business of the Federation. As the staff of the Federation they are committed to respecting the following principles :

- Officers and Directors treat each other with respect, honesty and fairness.
- Officers and directors are accountable to the Federation members through the provisions of their bylaws
- Officers and Directors represent the interests of the WFPICCS and do not favour their own interest
- Officers and Directors do not use the organization affiliation for personal gain or advantage, or for the advantage of friends, relatives or supporters

- Officers and Directors support in positive manner all actions taken by WFPICCS even when in a minority position on such actions.
- Officers and directors act in accord with high ethical conduct
- Officers and Directors are responsible for preserving confidentiality
- Officers and Directors do not allow their practices or judgments to be influenced by consideration of religion, sex race age, nationality, politics, social standing, class or extraneous factors.
- Officers and Directors demonstrate respect for the cultural identity of individuals and avoid any discrimination of children around the world.
- Officers and Directors do not use his/her affiliations with the WFPICCS except when acting as delegated by the Federation.
- Officers and Directors associated with the promotion of any activities, services, publications of the federation ensures that these are presented in a professional and factual manner.
- Officers and Directors commit to providing accurate and timely reports of their activities to the members.
- Officers and Directors will provide and publish financial statements in easily accessible form.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION

Membership in the Federation is limited to those organizations interested in furthering the vision and the objectives of the Federation. Full membership is restricted to organizations with an interest in pediatric or neonatal intensive and critical care. Associate members are defined in the Federation by-laws. As members of the Federation they must adopt the following ethical principles.

1. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF WFPICCS MEMBERS

- Members must have an interest in pediatric and/or neonatal intensive and critical care.
- Members must be recognized as the representative societies in intensive (critical) care in their country, region or continent.
- Members comply with the law of their country or a chosen country if it concerns a member with a regional-continent status.
- Members must recognize and respect the mission and objectives of the Federation and should commit themselves to reach these objectives.

- Members commit themselves to promote responsible conduct of research and education
- Members commit themselves to promote the advancement of care and practice

2. SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBILITY OF INVESTIGATORS ENDORSED BY THE FEDERATION

- Investigators should uphold the international tenets of research integrity.
- Investigators should declare their names status and affiliation.
- Investigators cannot carry on a research under the name of the Federation without consent.
- Investigators will submit in writing disclosure of the existence of potential conflict of interests and their nature including those arising from financial or family relationships, or professional or business affiliations.
- Investigators consider it prudent to be absent from that part of a meeting when a matter of conflict is being discussed.
- An investigator having a conflict will record his or her absence from discussion and abstention from a vote relating thereto.
- An investigator should always gain approval of the study by an official research ethical committee, either hospital based or governmental based.

3. INTEGRITY

- Members are fair and respectful of the others. They do not consciously make statements that are fake, misleading, or deceptive.
- Members cannot use the Federation abusively or improperly.
- Members must endeavour to preserve the confidentiality of information they acquire.
- Members should avoid potential or apparent conflicts of interest with profit-making organizations, laboratories, organizations.
- Each board member must declare any interests they may have which could influence, or might be perceived to influence their judgement or behaviour. They must sign a declaration of competing interests which regards financial or academic conflicts of interests. (See attached document. annex 1).
- Members of the WFPICCS should not allow their practices or judgments to be influenced by consideration of religion, sex race age, nationality, politics, social standing, class or extraneous factors.

- Members must respect the cultural identity of individuals and avoid any discrimination of children around the world.

IMPLEMENTATION

The WFPICCS board will actively encourage an internal dialogue on ethics, provide guidance for staff and ensure that internal systems, policies and procedures are consistent with this Code. Copies of the Code will be provided to the WFPICCS staff, to the members and will be published on the federation website.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTERESTS



The Federation requires a clear declaration of competing interests from each board members, directors and officers. Each of them must read and sign the following statements. Completed form should be submitted to the WFPICCS president.

This document is to certify (please \surd appropriate box):

- All my commercial affiliation, financial involvement (e.g., employment, equity interest, honoraria, stock ownership, stock options, grants, patents received or pending), or relationship with any organization or entity relevant to my position in the WFPICCS board are completely disclosed below or in attachment.

Categories of Financial Interest	NO	Source	Amount

- I have no commercial association, financial involvement or relationship with any organization or entity that might be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Signature

Printed name

Date