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**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESEARCHERS**

This Code of Conduct is applicable to all University of Venda, researchers / applicants which includes staff and students at the University and third parties applying for ethics approval and research ethics committee members.

This Code of Conduct must be read in conjunction with the University’s Code of Conduct document.

As a member of the University Community, I agree and commit to the rules and regulations of the University as well as all national and international laws and regulations applicable to my field of study. Furthermore, I agree and commit myself to abide by the ethical principles and responsibilities as set out in the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity dated 22 September 2010, in all research endeavours that I undertake as a researcher or applicant of the University or research ethics member.

I acknowledge and agree that I have read the Terms of Reference and the Standard Operating Procedures for the relevant research ethics committee that I am applying for ethics approval and agree to follow them.

The four major values of research integrity to which I will agree to adhere to and that will guide my research are:

* Honesty and integrity in all facets of my research or decisions that I make as a researcher and/or ethics committee member.
* Accountability in the conduct of my research or decisions that I make as a researcher and/or research ethics member.
* Professional courtesy and fairness in working with other people; and
* Good stewardship of research on behalf of other people.

Therefore, I will further agree to adhere to the following ethical responsibilities:

1. I will take responsibility for the originality and trustworthiness of my research.
2. I will stay abreast of and adhere to all institutional, national, and international laws, regulations, rules, and policies applicable and related to my research.
3. I will always employ appropriate research methods, base my conclusions on critical analysis of the evidence and report my findings and interpretations fully and objectively.
4. I will keep clear and accurate records of all research that I have conducted in a manner that will allow verification and replication of my work by others, if applicable.
5. I will, where applicable, share my data and findings openly and promptly, in line with external funding rules. This will be done as soon as possible after I have had an opportunity to establish priority and ownership claims.
6. I will take responsibility for my own contributions to publications, funding applications, reports and other representations of my research. I will also and only include authors who meet valid authorship criteria which is set out in the University’s Authorship Policy.
7. I will acknowledge the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to my research in publications, including writers, funders, sponsors, and others, but do not meet authorship criteria.
8. In my peer reviews, I will provide fair, prompt, and rigorous evaluations and I will respect confidentiality when I review others' work.
9. I will disclose all conflicts of interest (financial and other) that could compromise the trustworthiness of my work in research proposals, publications, public communications, and in review activities.
10. When I publicly address a community in the spirit of academic freedom, I will in all stages base my professional comments on research findings, if applicable, and my expertise. I will distinguish between professional comments and opinions based on personal views.
11. Should any irresponsible research practices and/or research misconduct become known to me or brought under my attention, I will report such irresponsible research activities to the appropriate University representatives, Research Ethics Committee and in line with the University’s Research Integrity Policy.
12. I will respond to any irresponsible research practices or conduct, by taking prompt actions as set out in the procedures of the University. I will also protect those who report misconduct in good faith, to the best of my abilities.
13. I will endeavour to create and sustain an environment that encourages research integrity through education of students, research teams and peers, as well as abide by policies, and reasonable standards for advancement.
14. I will always weigh societal benefits against the risks inherent in my research.

The absence of a specific guideline in this Code of Conduct does not relieve any individual of the responsibility of applying the highest ethical standards when reacting to a situation. Ethical, respectful, responsible, and diligent conduct of all members of the University community are essential for maintaining and enhancing the position of the University of Venda as a leading university in the Republic of South Africa, Africa, and the world.

**Researcher / Applicant Name:** ……………………… **Signature:** ……………………………

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_