

Greifswald's Principles of Good Scientific Practice

Principle 1 Fundamental Principles of Good Scientific Practice

Telling the truth is the overriding principle of scientific work. Scientific work also means:

- working according to recognised rules (that comply with the current norms of the subject discipline),
- documenting and publishing research results,
- regularly reflecting critically on one's own assumptions, hypotheses, research interests, methods and results,
- acting honestly and fairly with regard to contributions from other persons in research and
- avoiding and preventing academic misconduct.

Principle 2 Planning and Organising a Project

(1) When planning a project, researchers consider all aspects of the current state of research and use it as the foundation for their work. The identification of relevant and suitable research questions requires careful analysis of previously published research findings.

(2) When planning their research, researchers take into account any relevant obligations and the rights of third parties, which are defined by legal provisions or contracts with third parties. If required, they obtain approvals and ethical votes and hand these in. For this purpose, and in keeping with certain statutes at University Medicine, the University maintains an Ethics Commission, in particular for assessing projects in which research is performed on humans, as well as a Committee for the Ethical Evaluation of Security-Relevant Research. General legal requirements for a research project also include documented agreements concerning the rights of use of the ensuing research data and results.

(3) A research project should be preceded by a thorough assessment of the possible consequences of the research and an evaluation of the respective ethical aspects.

(4) If more than one researcher is involved in a research project, the researchers' roles and responsibilities, as well as those of the support staff, must be clearly defined, if necessary verified and if required adjusted.

Principle 3 Realising a Research Project

(1) When answering research questions, researchers apply scientific and transparent methods. If they develop or apply new methods, they place special emphasis on quality assurance and the establishment of standards.

(2) In line with the existing requirements and standards of the corresponding subject discipline, researchers document all of the information relevant for the attainment of a research result in a comprehensible manner so that the result can be verified and assessed. As a general rule of principle, individual results that do not support the research hypothesis are also documented; any such selection of results is inadmissible. If the documents fail to comply with these requirements, researchers must explain the corresponding restrictions and reasons in a comprehensible manner. Documents and research results may not be manipulated; efforts must be made to provide the best possible protection against manipulation.

(3) Researchers save research data or research results that have been made available to the public as well as the related central materials and, if applicable, the research software that was used in an adequate form according to the standards of the respective subject discipline; and store them for a suitable period of time. Researchers explain any reasons that justify the non-storage of certain results.

Principle 4 Publication of Research Results

(1) As a general rule of principle, all of the results belonging to a research project are published in full and in a comprehensible manner, introducing them to academic discourse. The researchers involved in the project independently decide how and in which form the results will be published. They carefully select the publication medium after consideration of its quality and prevalence in the respective field of discourse.

(2) As far as possible and reasonable, the underlying research data, materials and information, the applied methods and the software used to obtain the results are made available and methods are explained. This even applies to independently programmed software through provision of the source code. Own and third-party groundwork is recorded in full and correctly.

(3) Certain circumstances can provide justified reasons for the non-publication or other kinds of dissemination of the research results.

Principle 5 Authorship of Academic Publications

(1) Only persons who fulfil the requirements of §§ 7 ff. *Urheberrechtsgesetz* (Copyright Act) can be named as author of a publication. In particular, each person named as author must have made a genuine, identifiable contribution to the contents of an academic publication, whether text, data or software.

(2) A managerial or line manager role does not justify co-authorship per se; honorary authorship is not permitted. If a contribution is not substantial enough to justify authorship, it can be recognised in footnotes, in a preface or an acknowledgement.

(3) All of the authors must agree to the final version of the publication. It is not possible to refuse required agreement to the publication without sufficient reason. The agreement may only be refused based on verifiable criticism of the data, methods or results. If not indicated otherwise, the authors are jointly responsible for the publication.

(4) Agreement about the order in which authors are named must be found in due time, usually at the latest by the time the manuscript is being produced, and based on transparent criteria that take the conventions of the subject discipline into consideration.

(5) Authors pay attention to and, as far as possible, ensure that their research contributions are labelled by the publishing houses or infrastructure providers in such a way that users are able to quote them correctly.

Principle 6 Editorship and Reviews

(1) Academics who take on the role of editors carefully review the publication organs for which they plan to adopt this role.

(2) Academics who have been tasked with the assessment of submitted manuscripts, funding proposals or the expertise of individuals or other similar duties are obliged to fulfil these tasks in strict confidentiality. They disclose any facts that could justify any concern of bias. These obligations regarding confidentiality and disclosure of facts that could justify concern of bias also apply to members of academic advisory and decision-making bodies.

The University of Greifswald's Senate ratified Greifswald's Principles of Good Scientific Practice on 16 June 2021.

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