

## CSMLS POLICY STATEMENT ON ETHICAL CONDUCT IN RESEARCH

1. In recognition of the need for research conduct that respects human dignity and well-being, The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science endorses the principles put forth in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Subjects (TCPS).<sup>1</sup>
2. The CSMLS encourages the individuals involved in its institutional research activities (who include executive and administrative staff, consultants and research associates or assistants) to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct in every aspect of research including applications, proposals, the research itself, reports and publications.
3. The CSMLS includes the following attributes among its expectations for demonstration of the highest ethical standards in research. They originate in the TCPS documentation and are consistent with the high standards expressed in the Code of Professional Conduct for the Medical Laboratory Science profession.<sup>2</sup>
  - respect for the dignity of research subjects and participants;
  - accurate representation of data and information;
  - due acknowledgement of the work of others;
  - maintenance of confidentiality and appropriate use of confidential information;
  - appropriate and responsible use of resources intended for research purposes;
  - dissemination of research findings and implications;
  - commitment to research for the benefit of the medical laboratory profession, for the advancement of Canadian health care, and for the creation and translation of knowledge.
4. The CSMLS has created a set of guidelines to encourage increasing awareness of ethical issues and to outline its supportive administrative measures for an ethics review process that embodies the principles expressed in the TCPS document. The object of the CSMLS guidelines is to foster ethical conduct without interfering with freedom of inquiry and without causing unnecessary administrative burdens.
5. Because it is not possible or advisable to anticipate or prescribe ethical issues under all circumstances, this policy statement and the guidelines leave many specific matters untouched. The CSMLS expects its policy and guidelines on ethical conduct in research to evolve as the organization's research mandate and program develop.
6. Allegations of inappropriate research activity will be taken seriously by the CSMLS following the established practices and procedures of the applicable professional jurisdictions and codes of ethics.

Affirmed March 2009

References Updated 2015

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- <sup>1</sup> Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*. December 2014. Note: For the most recent information on amendments, please consult the official online version of the TCPS[Online]. Available: <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/>  
Accessed June 5 2015.
- <sup>2</sup> CSMLS. (2011). *Code of professional conduct*. Hamilton: CSMLS. [Online]. Available [http://www.csmls.org/csmls/media/documents/Governance/Code\\_of\\_Professional\\_Conduct-en.pdf](http://www.csmls.org/csmls/media/documents/Governance/Code_of_Professional_Conduct-en.pdf)  
Assessed June 5 2015.