

Preventing Research Misconduct: Some Programs in Africa

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Definition

- **FFP:**
 - widely accepted defn
- **Includes also:**
 - Unprofessional authorship
 - Undeclared conflicts of interests
 - Deviation from or failure to adhere to proposed protocol without proper permission
 - Misrepresentation
 - Falsification of credentials
 - Deception in research proposal
 - Deception in carrying out of research
 - Piracy of materials
 - Failure to obtain informed consent breaches of confidentiality
 - Undertaking research without REC clearance
 - Any one of all other deviations from accepted ethical standards



*Institutes of Higher Cheating

- **University of KwaZulu-Natal**
- **University of South Africa:**
 - senior history lecturer plagiarized masters student thesis; philosophy lecturer charged with plagiarism & 3 doctoral theses rejected
- **Stellenbosch University:**
 - 2006: 17 cases, 3 postgraduate
- **University of Cape Town:**
 - 39 cases since 2006, 1 postgraduate
- **University of the Free State:**
 - 2006 : 7 cases, 1 postgraduate
- **University of Pretoria:**
 - 2006: 22 cases, 2 postgraduate

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Institutions: Response

- Programs on scientific integrity
- Increased vigilance
- More stringent disciplinary action
- Plagiarism software



Programs : Health Science Faculty - Wits University

Demonstrate knowledge, skills and attitudes consistent with professional ethical practice

Undergraduate : Incorporated into formal curriculum and several activities on “Professionalism”

Postgraduate : Ethics in Research modules – includes students from other African countries

Partnership Programs : Conducting Research Ethically Workshops – Private/Public partnership with Pfizer – extends into Africa

SANPAD : Mozambique, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, South Africa



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Some Local Academic Endeavours

South African Journal of Bioethics and Law

Text book : **Bioethics, Human Rights and Health Law**
Principles and Practice



Some Challenges

Lack of clear policy on FFP and authorship criteria in many institutions (except for HPCSA Guidelines)

Uniform training programs lacking within and between institutions.

Monitoring : nil

Lack of country level policies



Future Plans

NRF – SA: country level policy

MRC – SA: ORI

Thank You



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