



IFS POLICY DOCUMENT Ethical Policy

APPROVED: 51ST IFS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, 2020

ETHICAL APPROVAL ISSUES

All programme activities comply with fundamental ethical principles, international conventions and declarations on ethical considerations and intellectual property rights.

1) ETHICAL APPROVAL OF MEDICAL OR HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS IS REQUIRED AS FOLLOWS :

Projects involving human subjects require ethical approval by a responsible authority in the country concerned. Projects involving experiments with animals are, whenever possible, approved by a responsible authority in the country concerned. IFS highlight this in the Rights and Responsibilities of the Chief Investigator (CI) and the Rights and Responsibilities of the Institution. Both relate to working with or producing genetically engineered organisms, dangerous products, or carrying out experiments that may raise ethical, environmental, animal welfare, or lab safety issues, and ensuring that nationally enacted or established safety regulations and procedures, and international standards are complied with. When changes or additions are made to the original project plan, renewed ethical approval is required. The scientist/institution is responsible for ensuring that ethical approval in accordance with the above-mentioned rules is obtained before beginning the study.

2) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPRS) (e.g., copyrights, trademarks, patents, industrial design rights and trade secrets) advance economic and social rights of citizens, influence research priorities and increase the private ownership of research outputs. There is concern that IPRs may obstruct local research capacities and access to research results vital to human development. As IFS relates to the research needs of developing countries, it is appropriate for its observance of IPRs, to be encouraging and not inhibit innovation of local researchers. Knowledge exchange is the process by which the research base interacts with business to enable knowledge and expertise to be utilized. Intellectual property (IP) is a key part of the knowledge transfer environment. IFS also support the development of knowledge exchange capability and skills regarding intellectual property, knowledge exchange and entrepreneurship. As such, IFS promotes the broad dissemination of knowledge created with public funds, by taking steps to encourage open access to research results, while encouraging, where appropriate, the related intellectual property to be protected. IFS believe that ownership of intellectual property should stay with the party that has generated it, but can be allocated to different parties on the basis of a contractual agreement concluded in advance, adequately reflecting the parties' respective interests, tasks and financial or other contributions to a project. The IFS ethics of science also relates to the possible harmful effects of applying the results of research. The long-term effects of science may be unpredictable, but

some idea of what applications are expected from scientific work can be ascertained. IFS does not support research results which have great potential risk to humanity, such as nuclear weapons or germ warfare.

IFS has revised its application form to incorporate a [Research Ethics Checklist](#) to be filled in by applicants.

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