



AAPS Professional Code of Conduct Policy

The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) and its members recognize their special obligations to society and the public to use their expertise with integrity to advance the health and welfare of mankind. It is the policy of AAPS that anyone who accepts membership or a volunteer role with AAPS must affirm their understanding of this Professional Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the decisions of the Board of Directors in its interpretation and implementation.

In their scientific and professional pursuits, AAPS members and staff:

- Exhibit the highest standards of competency, honesty, integrity, and impartiality; are fair and equitable; and accept a personal responsibility for adherence to applicable public laws and regulations and safeguarding the public welfare in their professional actions and behavior. These principles govern professional conduct in serving the interests of the membership, colleagues, profession, employers, clients and public.
- Engage in professional relationships without bias or discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender expression or identity), pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, political affiliation or views, or educational background.
- Do not engage to offer or accept bribes or facilitate payments, either directly or indirectly, not only in compliance with anti-bribery laws but also in maintenance of high professional and ethical standards.
- Are honest, truthful, ethical, and fair in presenting information and in making public statements, whether verbal or through printed or electronic/social media.
- Factually and fully represent competence and experience with accurate disclosure of educational background and qualifications.
- Disclose known or potential conflicts of interest or other circumstances which might influence-or appear to influence judgment or impair the fairness or quality of their performance.
- Conduct their work in a manner that adheres to the highest principles of scientific research so as to merit the confidence and trust of peers and the public, in particular regarding the rights of human subjects, the proper use of animals and suitable safeguards for the safe and environmentally sound conduct of research.
- Report results accurately, stating explicitly any known or suspected bias, opposing efforts to improperly modify data or conclusions, and offering professional advice only on those subjects concerning which they regard themselves competent through scientific education, training or experience.
- Avoid scientific misconduct and expose it when encountered. AAPS uses the current federal definition of scientific misconduct, 65 FR 76260-76264: Fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research or reporting research results.
- Recognize latitude for differences of scientific opinion in the interpretation of scientific data and that such differences of opinion do not constitute unethical conduct.
- Respect the known ownership rights of others in scientific research and seek prior authorization from the owner before disclosure or use of such information including the contents of manuscripts submitted for pre-publication review. Properly credit the contributions of others; and do not accept credit for work that is not their own work.
- Disclose sources of external financial support for, or significant financial interests in the content of research reports/publications and avoid the manipulation of the release of such information for illegal financial gain.
- Only use AAPS' trademarks, insignia, name, and logos in a manner that is compliant with AAPS guidance.

- Do not speak on behalf of AAPS to external parties such as the media or other interested individuals/entities unless specifically asked to do so by the Board of Directors or AAPS staff.
- Are not allowed to make contractual commitments on behalf of AAPS. Contractual agreements are the responsibility of AAPS staff through the authority granted to them by the AAPS Board of Directors.
- Demonstrate respect for the data privacy of other AAPS members, e.g., not gathering or “harvesting” contact information from AAPS and distributing for any reason.
- Make or recommend decisions in the best interests of AAPS as an association rather than focusing or advocating options that advance a personal concern or position.
- Obey all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant government authorities while acting on behalf of AAPS or representing themselves as a Member of AAPS.
- Do not behave in any other way inconsistent with the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.

Violations of the Code of Conduct

Alleged violation(s) of the AAPS Professional Code of Conduct should be reported in writing directly to the AAPS President and/or Board of Directors. The AAPS Ethics Committee is a Board-level committee assigned to consider cases of non-compliance with the AAPS Professional Code of Conduct.

The AAPS Ethics Committee can recommend actions to the Board of Directors that may include no penalty, to issue a warning, to suspend the member’s AAPS membership for a set period, or to permanently expel the member from AAPS membership. Other actions can include rescinding of previously bestowed awards or fellowship status, either for a set period or permanently. In certain egregious cases, AAPS may take legal action to ensure the integrity of the society is maintained. The Ethics Committee may also recommend holding on action or taking on action or take preliminary action pending further obtainment of key facts, information and legal opinions. Before taking any action, AAPS will notify the member or volunteer of the complaint in writing and provide the member or volunteer with an opportunity to respond in writing within 10 business days.

A member or volunteer may appeal a decision, within 10 business days, in writing to the Board of Directors. Appeals to any action taken will be considered by the Board of Directors and all decisions made by the Board will be considered final.

Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation of the AAPS Professional Code of Conduct must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information reported indicates a violation of the Code of Conduct. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a violation of this Code of Conduct and subject to appropriate discipline by the Board of Directors.

Adopted by the Board of Directors 11/02/2019