



Research Integrity Agreement

Last updated: February 27, 2026

Date:

RE:

Preamble:

This Research Integrity Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into between the SFPE Foundation ("Foundation") and the undersigned researcher(s) ("Researcher(s)") collectively referred to as the "Parties," for the purpose of maintaining and promoting research integrity, ethics, and professionalism in connection with the research project funded by the Foundation. If a team of researchers is involved in the project that is the subject of this Agreement, then a signature from a representative of the research team will be taken to apply to the entire research team and all individuals associated with this project, whether they are explicitly named in the proposal submitted by the research team or not. This Agreement outlines the principles, responsibilities, and expectations that all Parties shall uphold during the course of this research project.

1. Research Integrity:

1.1. The Parties shall uphold the highest standards of research integrity, including but not limited to honesty, transparency, and objectivity, throughout the duration of the research project.

1.2. All research conducted under the auspices of this Agreement shall be conducted in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

2. Ethical Conduct:

2.1. The Parties shall adhere to ethical principles and guidelines as set forth by the Foundation, including but not limited to those related to data management, authorship, and the treatment of human and animal subjects.

2.2. Researcher(s) shall promptly report any ethical concerns or violations to the designated responsible parties at the Foundation. Unless otherwise indicated, the responsible party for the Foundation shall be the Director.

3. Data Integrity:

3.1. Data collected and used in the research project shall be accurate, complete, and free from manipulation or fabrication.

3.2. Data shall be recorded, stored, and managed in a manner consistent with best practices and in compliance with applicable institutional and regulatory policies.



4. Authorship, Publication, and Avoidance of Plagiarism:

4.1. Researcher(s) shall acknowledge and adhere to established guidelines on authorship and publication practices, ensuring that authorship is based on substantial contributions to the research.

4.2. Researcher(s) shall ensure that all sources used in their research are appropriately cited in accordance with SFPE Foundation's chosen citation style, IEEE, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

4.3. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Researcher(s) shall take all necessary precautions to avoid plagiarism, including proper citation and attribution. Plagiarism can include:

- 1) Unattributed use of others' work or ideas;
- 2) Portrayal of another's work or ideas as one's own;
- 3) Improper citation of one's own previous work; and,
- 4) Use of artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, to write reports.

4.4. In cases where the work of others is used or referenced, Researcher(s) shall obtain any necessary permissions or licenses and provide accurate and complete citations to the original sources, including use of images.

4.5. Researcher(s) shall promptly report any concerns related to plagiarism or improper citation to the designated responsible parties at the Foundation.

5. Collaboration and Communication:

5.1. Researcher(s) shall foster a collaborative and transparent research environment by sharing findings, data, and methodologies within the research team and with relevant stakeholders.

5.2. Any conflicts of interest related to the research project shall be disclosed promptly to the Foundation.

6. Compliance:

6.1. The Parties shall comply with all terms and conditions of the research grant provided by the Foundation, as well as any additional requirements specified in the grant agreement.

6.2. The Parties shall cooperate with any audits, inquiries, or investigations related to research integrity or ethics conducted by the Foundation or relevant regulatory authorities.

7. Reporting Violations:

7.1. In the event of any suspected or actual violations of this Agreement, Researcher(s) shall promptly report such violations to the designated responsible parties at the Foundation. Unless otherwise indicated, the responsible party for the Foundation shall be the Director.



8. Consequences of Violation:

8.1. In the event of violations of this Agreement by Researcher(s), the Foundation may take appropriate action, in its discretion, including but not limited to the termination of the research project, suspension of funding, and disciplinary action against the Researcher(s).

9. Duration and Termination:

9.1. This Agreement shall remain in effect for the duration of the research project funded by the Foundation, unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement of the Parties, by one Party due to material breach of this Agreement by the other Party, or as required by applicable laws or regulations.

10. Amendment:

10.1. This Agreement may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties to address unforeseen circumstances or changes in the research project's scope.

11. Governing Law:

11.1. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland and the United States of America. Any disputes arising under or in connection with this Agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the State or Federal courts within Maryland.

12. Entire Agreement:

12.1. This Agreement supplements the research grant agreement but otherwise constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, and representations, whether oral or written.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Research Integrity Agreement as of the date first above written.

Researcher(s):

Signature: _____

Name/Title: _____

Date: _____

SFPE Foundation:

Signature: 

Name/Title: Leslie Marshall, PhD
Interim Executive Director, SFPE
Foundation

Date: February 27, 2026