

Ethics In Research Groups

The purpose of this study is to help the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions at the Illinois Institute of Technology in a National Science Foundation-funded study that is looking at the ethical climate of research groups and how being a part of developing context-specific ethical guidelines for use in research groups may help cultivate an ethical culture.

As a participant in this research, you will be asked to complete an anonymous survey looking at what are important ethical questions or issues in STEM research and practice, and what specific ethical issues are important in the research groups you have worked in at Illinois Tech. This survey should take about fifteen minutes to complete.

As a participant in this research, I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Results of the survey will be anonymous. In addition, I understand that I do not have an obligation to answer any question that I do not wish. Any answer I submit is done voluntarily by me and without coercion.

I understand that this research presents minimal risks other than what I might feel from thinking about the questions that are asked, or fears that information being shared in questionnaires may become known to members of my research group or supervisors. To mitigate this risk, all survey answers will be anonymous. Any further questions about the research and my rights as a participant will be answered if I contact the project directors Elisabeth Hildt, Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions, 312.567.3902/ehildt@iit.edu or Kelly Laas, Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions, 312.567.6913/laas@it.edu.

I understand that the Illinois Institute of Technology is not responsible for any injuries or medical conditions I may suffer during the time I am a research participant unless those injuries or medical conditions are due to IIT's negligence. I may address questions and complaints to Glenn Krell, MPA, CRA, and Executive Officer of IIT Institutional Review Board at 312-567- 7141. I have read the material above and any questions I asked have been answered to my satisfaction.

* Required

1. I agree to participate in this activity, realizing that I may withdraw without penalty at any time. *

Mark only one oval.

I Agree *Skip to question 2*

I Disagree

Demographics

2. Please select your gender. *

Mark only one oval.

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

3. Please select the department you are a member of *

Mark only one oval.

- Applied Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Physics
- Biomedical Engineering (BME)
- Chemical and Biological Engineering (ChBE)
- Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering (CAEE)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Mechanical, Materials, and Aerospace Engineering (MMAE)
- Other: _____

4. Which of the following best defines your role at the university? *

Mark only one oval.

- Undergraduate Student
- Masters Student *Skip to question 8*
- PhD Candidate *Skip to question 8*
- Postdoctoral Student *Skip to question 8*
- Staff *Skip to question 8*
- Faculty *Skip to question 8*
- Other: _____

Origin of Degree

5. In what city and country did you receive your high school diploma? *

6. How many years have you been involved in a research group? *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6 months - 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- More than 10 years

7. Have you been involved in a research group outside of a class? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes *Skip to question 10*

No *Skip to question 10*

Origin of Degree

8. In what city and country did you complete your undergraduate degree? *

9. How many years have you been involved in a research group? *

Mark only one oval.

0-3 months

3-6 months

6 months - 1 year

1-2 years

3-5 years

6-10 years

More than 10 years

Research Groups at Illinois Tech and Elsewhere

10. In how many research groups have you worked during your career overall? *

11. How many of these research groups are at Illinois Tech? *

12. How many research groups have you worked in at other institutions? *

Ethical Culture of Research Groups

13. Which of the following statements about ethics do you identify most with? (Please choose the three you most identify with) *

Check all that apply.

- Ethics are similar to the legal regulations and guidelines that apply to a certain situation.
- Ethics are what I feel is right and wrong, the principles and values that I hold.
- Ethics are what my culture defines as right or wrong, the principles and values of that culture.
- Ethics are the codes of conduct or moral principles recognized in a particular profession, sphere of activity, or other context or aspect of human life.
- Ethics have to do with avoiding scandal.
- Ethics are defined by the situation I am in.

14. What ethics topics do you think are most important in the research group(s) you have worked in here at Illinois Tech? *

15. In a sentence or two, please describe ethical issues (if any) you have encountered in your current research group(s) at Illinois Tech. *

16. How did your research group(s) deal with these issue(s) when they came up? *

17. How committed are researchers in your current research group(s) at Illinois Tech to maintaining high standards of integrity in their work? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not committed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very committed

18. How would you rate the atmosphere in your current research group(s) *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Bad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Good

Ethical Discussions and Actions in Research Group

19. Please rate the following statements on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Basis for Judgement
Maintaining a high level of integrity in my research is my personal responsibility.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining a high level of integrity in the work of our research group is a collective responsibility.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The possible implications my research may have on society and/or the environment is my personal responsibility.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a researcher, I feel personally responsible that I should use my expertise to contribute to the public discussion about science and technology.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Please rate the importance of avoiding the following activities in your research group(s) here at Illinois Tech. Please rate the following statements on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Important	Very Important	No Basis for Judgement
Falsifying or 'cooking' research data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ignoring aspects of human-subject requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unauthorized use of confidential information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Failing to present data that contradicts your own research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overlooking others' use of flawed data or questionable interpretation of data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changing the design, methodology, or results of a study in response to pressure from a funding source.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing the same data or results in two or more publications.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inappropriately assigning authorship credit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Withholding details of methodology or results in papers or proposals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dropping observations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

or data points from
analyses based on the
gut feeling that they
were inadequate

Inadequate record
keeping related to
research projects

Using inadequate or
inappropriate research
designs

Not being
mentioned/considered
adequately as an author

Issues related to
hierarchy

Communication
problems

Not giving credit when
using another's words or
ideas

Ignoring safety
regulations

Lack of team spirit

21. Please rate how often you have discussed the following activities in your research group(s) here at Illinois Tech. Please rate the following statements on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being never and 5 being always. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	No Basis for Judgement
Falsifying or 'cooking' research data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ignoring aspects of human-subject requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unauthorized use of confidential information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Failing to present data that contradicts your own research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overlooking others' use of flawed data or questionable interpretation of data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changing the design, methodology, or results of a study in response to pressure from a funding source.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing the same data or results in two or more publications.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inappropriately assigning authorship credit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Withholding details of methodology or results in papers or proposals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Dropping observations
or data points from
analyses based on the
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Not being
mentioned/considered
adequately as an
author

Issues related to
hierarchy

Communication
problems

Not giving credit when
using another's words
or ideas

Ignoring safety
regulations

Lack of team spirit

22. Please rate how often you have actually seen or experienced the following activities in your research group(s) here at Illinois Tech. Please rate the following statements on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being never and 5 being always. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	No Basis for Judgement
Falsifying or 'cooking' research data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ignoring aspects of human-subject requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unauthorized use of confidential information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Failing to present data that contradicts your own research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overlooking others' use of flawed data or questionable interpretation of data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changing the design, methodology, or results of a study in response to pressure from a funding source.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing the same data or results in two or more publications.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inappropriately assigning authorship credit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Withholding details of methodology or results in papers or proposals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Dropping observations or data points from analyses based on the gut feeling that they were inadequate

Inadequate record keeping related to research projects

Using inadequate or inappropriate research designs

Not being mentioned/considered adequately as an author

Issues related to hierarchy

Communication problems

Not giving credit when using another's words or ideas

Ignoring safety regulations

Lack of team spirit

23. Please rate the following statements about your current research group(s) on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being strongly disagree, 5 being strongly agree, or no basis for judgement. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Basis for Judgement
It is difficult to conduct research in a responsible manner because of mistrust in sharing ideas with other members of my current research group.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is difficult to conduct research in a responsible manner because of the lack of communication among members of my current research group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is difficult to conduct research in a responsible manner in my current research group because of pressure to publish.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is difficult to conduct research in a responsible manner because of the lack of collaboration among members of my current research group.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is difficult to conduct research in a responsible manner in my current research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

group because of
time pressure.

It is difficult to
conduct research in a
responsible manner in
my current research
group because of
insufficient access to
human resources
such as statistical
expertise,
administrative or
technical staff.

It is difficult to
conduct research in a
responsible manner
because of
insufficient access to
material resources
such as space,
equipment, or
technology.

Final Section

24. Where do you currently go to find advice on how to resolve ethical issues that may come up in your current research group(s)? *

Mark only one oval.

- Colleagues
- Research group supervisor/department chair
- Existing ethical guidelines or policies from funding organization (NIH, NSF, etc.)
- Online resources
- Illinois Tech Administration (IRB Office, Office of Sponsored Research)
- Other: _____

25. If your research group were to develop and adopt ethical guidelines to help resolve potential ethical issues, what issues should these guidelines focus on? *

Thank you
for
completing
this
survey!

If you would like to be included in a raffle to win one of four \$25 Amazon gift cards, please visit this link and enter your email address below. This information will not be connected with your survey answers. The winners will be drawn and notified by email on February 15, 2016.

26. Please enter your email below to enter the raffle for one of three \$25 gift cards.
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