

# IPRO 318 – Food Safety, Genetically-Modified Crops and Protein Engineering

## Code of Ethics

**Overarching Principal:** “To conduct extensive research on genetically modified crops while complying with all guidelines and laws pertaining to scientific research.”

### 1) Law

- **Canon:** To be knowledgeable of and comply with all state and federal laws regarding Intellectual Property.
- **Pressure:** The desire to be recognized within the field.
- **Pressure:** To complete research within eminent deadline.
- **Risk:** Taking credit for someone else’s work resulting in an infringement on copyright laws could lead to fines or imprisonment.
- **Measure:** A lack of lawsuits or complaints within the field will serve as a measure for this canon.

### 2) Contracts and Agreements

- **Canon:** To abide by a signed contractual agreement with web hosting provider stating that the site will only be used to display current research.
- **Pressure:** To utilize the web page for personal financial gain.
- **Risk:** To allow for banner ads not approved by the web host.
- **Risk:** To set up a Pay-pal account which would transfer money directly to personal bank account
- **Measure:** If the web page remains and there is no complaint from the host, it can be assumed there was not a breach of contract.

### 3) Professional Codes

- **Canon:** To abide by the code of conduct set forth by the ASM (American Society of Microbiologist) for conducting and publishing research. This code of conduct can be found at: <http://www.asm.org/general.asp?bid=14777>
- **Pressure:** To complete the research by a set deadline.
- **Risk:** Plagiarism resulting in possible legal repercussions such as fines or imprisonment.
- **Risk:** Falsification of documents which could potentially jeopardize consumer’s health.

- **Measures:** Lack of lawsuits or complaints filed for unprofessional conduct will serve as a measure for this canon.

#### 4) Industry Standards

- **Canon:** To ensure that any marketed products resulting from the research conducted follow food safety guidelines provided by the Food and Drug Administration.
- **Pressure 1:** To release the product hastily to generate profit.
- **Risk 1:** Releasing the product before it has been FDA approved
- **Pressure 2:** Providing the FDA with false testing result in order to obtain approval.
- **Risk 2:** The FDA approving the product without detecting potential risks which may affect consumers.
- **Measure:** A measure of this canon would be if the product is not retracted from the market as a result of consumer grievances.

#### 5) Community

- **Canon:** To uphold all rules and regulations to ensure the safety of the entire community of potential GMO consumers.
- **Pressure:** To purposely leave out negative information regarding GMO in order to increase sales.
- **Risk:** Consumers' health may be at risk and could result in a fatality.
- **Risk:** Legal action may result if the product negatively affects the welfare of the consumer.
- **Measure:** A measure for this canon can be that there is no increase in reports showing allergenic reactions or fatalities related to the research conducted.

#### 6) Personal Relationships

- **Canon:** Members will treat each other respectfully at all times.
- **Pressure:** To reduce time spent in discussion, team members will force their opinions on others.
- **Risk:** Team members may feel their opinion is not valued.
- **Risk:** Team members may not contribute as often in the future causing the quality of work to decrease.
- **Measure:** A measure of this is if all members are satisfied and feel they are respected, they will contribute to the team's discussion.

#### 7) Personal/Moral Values

- **Canon:** Members will not be required to work unreasonable hours.

- **Pressure:** Impending deadlines to push team members to work through major holidays, weekends, and more than 40 hour work weeks.
- **Risk:** Members will not spend as much time with their loved ones because they are working excessively.
- **Risk:** Working excessively may lead to physical and mental stress on team members.
- **Measure:** Keeping a time sheet for each member will indicate when and how often they are working.