

Code of Conduct

General principles

At ICA, we are committed to advancing the diagnosis and treatment of chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, and thus improving the clinical outcome and long-term care for affected patients. We are convinced that in order to benefit the medical community in an optimal way, medical research must be conducted responsibly, and that integrity is and will remain the basis for meaningful research. We adhere to all applicable laws and regulations, as well as to high ethical standards, which apply to all ICA constituents, including Board members, regular members, collaborators, vendors, and any other third party partners, whenever they engage with ICA or on its behalf. Reported breaches of this code will be investigated and corrective actions taken as needed.

Research ethics and integrity

We believe that we have a responsibility towards the medical and scientific community to provide accurate and high-quality data that can help advance both scientific knowledge and patient management. Constituents involved in the conduct of research comply with all applicable institutional and governmental regulations and abide by the highest research ethics and integrity standards. We are committed to employing scientifically rigorous study designs and analytical methodologies. We do not tolerate any form of scientific misconduct or fraud, and all our constituents are obliged to report any suspicion of such behaviour immediately.

Relationship with patients and the community

In all interactions with patients, our members act fairly, in good faith, honestly, and with compassion and respect for patients' dignity and rights. We encourage our members to be involved in the community and to support policies and changes that are in the best interests of patients.

Anti-corruption and conflicts of interest

We do not tolerate any fraudulent activity, money laundering, corruption or any action that could be perceived as such by our constituents. This includes all illegal or deceptive behaviours conducted for purposes of inappropriate financial or other benefit, including intangible benefits such as profiteering as a result of insider knowledge.

Conflicts of interest

We take proactive steps to prevent actual or perceived conflicts of interest and never use our position or the association's assets for personal gain or benefit.

Organisational transparency

We represent our mission, projects, collaborations and partnerships truthfully and disclose any financial support of our projects in a transparent way. We record all financial transactions promptly, accurately and completely and are committed to a responsible use of the association's assets.

Fair compensation

As a not-for-profit association, our aim is to cover the costs of the research projects that we conduct in order to ensure the continued running of our operations. Our quotes provided to collaborators and sponsors in the context of collaborative projects are transparent, correctly represent the intended use of funding and reflect a fair compensation of our efforts and those of our suppliers.

Cooperation and communication

We are respectful, honest and fair in all interactions with our constituents. We encourage open communication and direct engagement between parties to resolve issues. We do not tolerate any retaliation against anyone communicating any issues arising in the context of a research project in good faith.

Privacy rights

We adhere to the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection and the European General Data Protection Regulation and are committed to safeguarding and using confidential information in a proper way to ensure that privacy rights of all involved parties are protected. We understand the importance of cybersecurity and take high-level precautions to keep the health data of patients participating in our research projects safe at all times. Personal information is collected only for legitimate purposes, shared only with those who are permitted access, protected in accordance with security policies and retained only for as long as necessary.

Non-discrimination

We are fully committed to upholding human rights and to treating all our constituents with dignity and respect. We do not discriminate against any member, collaborator or supplier because of age, gender, disability, marital status, ethnicity, colour, national origin, religion, political affiliation or other non-merit traits. We do not tolerate any abuse, harassment or other offensive or inappropriate behaviour. Participation in our research activities is only restricted based on age or other characteristics if there is a valid medical rationale for doing so. We aim to achieve a balanced geographical distribution of participants in our projects.

Diversity

We are aware that diversity requires conscious efforts to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts, and we value the cultural differences in our constituents. We understand that the methods for meeting universal expectations may be different and must be consistent with the laws, values and cultural expectations of different societies across the globe.

Child protection

None of our constituents must use illegal, abusive or forced labour, child labour or young workers below a country's legal employment age.