Academic Freedom and Integrity of Research

Approved by the NOSM Board of Directors
November 29, 2013

The common good of society depends upon the search for knowledge and its free exposition. Academic Freedom is the freedom to examine, question, teach, and learn, and it involves the right to investigate, speculate, and comment without reference to prescribed doctrine. Academic Freedom does not require neutrality on the part of the individual; on the contrary, Academic Freedom makes commitment to a position or course of action possible.

The Corporation is dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. Its members enjoy certain rights and privileges essential to these twin objectives. Central among these rights and privileges is the freedom within the law to pursue what in their opinion are fruitful avenues of inquiry, to teach and to learn in an environment unhindered by external or non-academic constraints, and to engage in full and unrestricted consideration of any opinion. This freedom extends to members of the Corporation and to all who are invited to participate in its activities. All members of the Corporation are deemed to recognize this fundamental principle and are deemed to share responsibility for its support, its safeguard and its preservation. Behaviour obstructing free and full discussion of ideas which are safe and accepted and those which may be unpopular or abhorrent threatens the integrity of the Corporation and shall not be tolerated.

Suppression of Academic Freedom will prevent the Corporation from carrying out its primary functions. In particular, as an autonomous institution the Corporation shall shield and protect its members from any efforts by the state or its agents, the officers of the Corporation or its agents, its members, private individuals, corporations and other entities to limit or suppress Academic Freedom.

The Corporation is committed to protecting the Integrity of Research, to abiding by ethical principles in all its research and to prohibiting conflicts of interest between members of the Corporation and third parties.

With respect to risks associated with research involving human subjects, all contracts, protocols or investigator agreements for industrial sponsorship of clinical trials or for participation in such clinical trials shall be deemed to provide that the clinical investigators shall not be prevented by the sponsor or anyone else from informing participants in the study, members of the research group, other physicians administering the treatment, research ethics boards, regulatory agencies and the scientific community, of risks to participants that the investigators identify during the research. These provisions also apply to any risks from a treatment so identified following the conclusion of a trial if there are patients being administered the treatment in a non-trial setting. The term “risk” includes but is not limited to the inefficacy of the treatment and direct safety concerns.

All contracts, protocols or investigator agreements for industrial sponsorship of clinical trials or for participation in such clinical trials shall reproduce this declaration on Integrity of Research and the declaration on Academic Freedom.

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Version	**Date**	**Authors/Comments**
V1.0	December 2, 2003	Approved by the Board of Directors as Appendix G within By-Law No 2 (consolidated version Dec 2, 2003 including By-Law amendments passed on September 27, 2006)
V2.0	November 29, 2013	No revisions – Stand-alone policy approved by the Board of Directors pursuant to the Governance Review of 2012-2013 in the Board Policy Manual.