

**JET PROPULSION LABORATORY  
MEMORANDUM**

**INTEROFFICE**

**December 12, 2010**

**To: The JPL Research Community**

**From: The Office of the Chief Scientist and Chief Technologist**

**Subject: Guidelines for Ethics in Research**

**Foreword**

JPL is a leading institution supporting the NASA mission, whose highly talented employees are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professional ethics and scholarship.

While JPL's research community operates in a highly professional and ethical manner, it is useful to discuss in one document the ethical and professional standards that are at the foundation of our core values as individuals and that JPL expects of its researchers. These guidelines are meant to address key elements of professional standards that ensure that individual researchers establish and maintain the strongest personal reputation, and that JPL's reputation as a research institution remains of the highest caliber, to provide guidance towards avoidance and resolution of conflicts, and to identify unethical behaviors that result in disciplinary action.

The guidelines, while not attempting to be complete, are intended to inform employees' thinking about research ethics, particularly if they are new to the research environment. The objective is to catalyze discussion rather than to prescribe answers, and management is encouraged to use these materials in meetings with their staff, and as part of training courses.

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## **I. The JPL Environment**

The JPL research environment has several unique cultural attributes, beyond those in a typical academic environment (such as our parent organization, Caltech), that influence its ethical and professional standards, and that can lead to conflicts and ethical challenges. These attributes include: projects involving large teams of people, unique research involving coupled technology, science and engineering expertise, research using data sets obtained through the work of many people, and meeting the need to promptly engage the public in JPL's research enterprise without compromising the integrity of its research.

In the project environment many team members play a variety of roles that enable and support research, sometimes making it difficult to determine how to properly attribute credit for new discoveries as well as simply reporting research results. The roles played by different team members, and the nature of their contributions, need to be carefully considered to make appropriate decisions regarding attribution.

In the realm of research that spans technology, science and engineering, it is often difficult to define the criticality of individual contributions to a specific research result, leading to conflicts and misunderstandings. Such conflicts can include, for example, disagreements over the contributions of managers to research results and the proper attribution of credit. The question to be answered in these cases is: 'Did the team member contribute to the intellectual content of the publication under consideration?' *Often these conflicts can be avoided by clear upfront communication amongst team members to develop shared understanding of expected outcomes.* These guidelines provide a framework for developing that understanding, and for resolving conflicts that occur.

In research using data collected by missions or large projects, including calibrated and processed data products, there are no clear standards for how to properly attribute credit for original data sets and data products. It is also impractical to attempt to directly credit the teams responsible, so guidelines for handling attribution in these situations are needed.

Finally, the desire to communicate with and engage the public in JPL's research and missions can lead to situations where credit is not given properly in products such as press releases, and where the engagement value of a release is considered more important than proper complete attribution. These are difficult situations to mediate, but articulating strategies for striking the right balance should help in this regard.

Because of JPL's status as a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), we have specific obligations in dealing with allegations of research misconduct, which are described in JPL Document 58713, Ethics in Research, in JPL Rules! Any researcher who intentionally engages in or fails to

reveal knowledge of research misconduct is subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.

Scientific research misconduct has a succinct definition in guidelines developed by the US Office of Science and Technology Policy as “Fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results”, where

- Fabrication is “making up data or results.”
- Falsification is “manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.”
- Plagiarism is “the appropriation (use without authority or right) of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.”

In all cases it is understood that research misconduct does not include honest error.

In addition, there is a spectrum of actions and behaviors that, while less serious than research misconduct, may still damage the reputation of individual researchers or JPL as a whole. In many cases these may be unintentional or may arise from substandard practices. These guidelines are intended to help researchers prevent such problems.

## **II. Integrity in the Practice of Research**

This section discusses the key aspects of good professional and ethical behavior in the context of presentation and publication of research. It is based on the extensive work on ethical guidelines prepared by scientific/engineering societies, some of which are listed below for those who are interested in an in-depth discussion of the topic.

### **General Resources**

National Academy of Sciences: On Being A Scientist: Responsible Conduct In Research (<http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309051967>)

NASA NPR 1080.1A: Requirements for the conduct of NASA Research and Technology  
([http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?Internal\\_ID=N\\_PR\\_1080\\_001A\\_&page\\_name=Preface](http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayDir.cfm?Internal_ID=N_PR_1080_001A_&page_name=Preface))

Online Ethics Center for Engineering and Research

<http://www.onlineethics.org/Resources/ethcodes/21733.aspx>

A portal to the codes of Ethics of a number of societies, including the American Physical Society, American Chemistry Society, IEEE

Office of Research Integrity – US Department of Health and Human Services - Handbooks and Guidelines

<http://ori.dhhs.gov/publications/handbooks.shtml>

## **Author and Reviewer Resources – A few Examples**

Guide to Publication Policies of Nature Journals

<http://www.nature.com/authors/gta.pdf>

Guidelines to Publication with the American Chemical Society

<http://pubs.acs.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1218054468605/ethics.pdf>

For a JPL-internal reference on all matters of Ethics in the workplace, the reader should refer to the Ethics Handbook and other related information, all available from the JPL Ethics Office website, <http://ethics.jpl.nasa.gov>.

### **a. Authorship**

#### **1a. Establishing authorship**

Maintaining JPL's high standards requires a culture of ethical authorship. Research teams (i.e. researchers who are working on a task resulting from a successful proposal, a flight project science team, etc.) should discuss papers and authorship when planning the task activities, and decide on authors before each article is written. The leader of the team (PI, Task manager, etc.) should make sure that all the team members are given the opportunity to have their original contributions published as appropriate. The team members should communicate openly and reach a consensus on respective roles on papers and authorship order, by working together to resolve conflicts that might arise. Perspective lead authors should invite all of those who contributed significantly to be a co-author, and be open to add others who present a sensible argument for why they should be included.

On the other hand, authorship comes with responsibilities and offers to be a co-author on a paper should not be taken lightly. Authorship should be declined in cases where the researcher (1) has irreconcilable disagreements with any aspect of the research described in the paper, (2) is convinced that he/she did not contribute intellectually, or (3) does not want to be associated with a particular paper. All of the authors on a paper are implicitly viewed as responsible for its contents.

#### **2a. Substantial contribution**

Each author on a paper should have made a substantial scientific/ technical contribution, and no person who has done so should be excluded from authorship of a publication. The meaning of "substantial" depends on the situation, and is determined by the research team on a case-by-case basis.

At JPL research teams often comprise scientists, technologists and engineers who work together to develop complex instrumentation for observations that lead to scientific discoveries or significant advances.

Scientists and technologists often have different and complementary research interests and objectives, leading to scientists being authors of science papers and technologists/engineers being authors of technical papers. The decision to include scientists as authors of technical papers, or vice-versa, should be made by the team transparently, and is situation dependent or, in some cases, based on established practices by a particular research community.

For example, a person who set up a laboratory initially, but did not subsequently design, consult on, or conduct an experiment which is the object of a later paper, may not have made a substantial contribution to the actual research being reported, and therefore may not warrant co-authorship. However, if the person set up a laboratory that has some specialized capabilities or intellectual property that would otherwise prevent the data from being obtained elsewhere or by any other means, then this may be a substantial contribution deserving co-authorship. In such cases, when the contribution has not been previously or contemporarily published and therefore cannot be cited, it may be argued that the first, or first few, publications resulting from the work should include the person who set up the laboratory initially, but subsequent papers utilizing the laboratory's specialized capabilities may only refer to the prior publications and/or recognize the person responsible for the laboratory set-up with an acknowledgment.

As another example, a specialist at one of NASA's large material characterization facilities spending hours guiding scientists through the analysis of their samples is likely to help enhance the science returned from the analysis, and it may be appropriate to invite that person to co-author the resulting publications.

Science papers that contain extensive technical description, whose scope is not limited to the science investigation, should have authors that represent all the aspects discussed, making sure that all co-authors have read the paper and approve of the description and discussion of their specific contribution. Some scientific communities have long-established rules governing authorship practices, ranging from being inclusive to selective. Technical and engineering research communities tend to be more inclusive. JPL encourages the publication of at least one paper that describes the complete implementation of a flight project (including engineering aspects) co-authored by all who contributed, separate from publications focused on scientific results obtained by such project.

The standard for substantial contribution is not met by a person who is solely a) the author's manager (either in the line organization or in a program office) without being a consultant or participating in the work or b) sympathetic to the results and wants to "endorse" the work. Contributions are typically conception and development of ideas, collection of data sets, design of experiments, lab setups (along with other contributions described above), conducting experiments, writing computer codes, data analysis, interpretation of data, writing the paper if involved in the generation of content, and providing materials and/or advice and/or feedback that alter the interpretation of data and conclusions. What

makes the above substantial is the level of novelty and originality that constitutes improvement over state of the art and warrants writing a paper.

In particular, students and postdoctoral researchers who contribute important ideas and even software and hardware developments should always be appropriately recognized.

### **3a. Authorship of Institutional Presentations**

The above guidelines should be adhered to for publications (refereed or not, conference proceedings, reports, etc), and presentations that imply intellectual ownership of its original contents (conference presentations, project meetings, etc). However, for certain presentations to JPL, NASA or at programmatic venues when high-level information is summarized, there are accepted practices in which variances may occur. For example, in presentations made in connection with management's institutional duties (e.g., by a Project Manager, a Directorate Program Manager, etc.), it is sometimes impractical to accurately and completely credit all contributors to the original contents. It is understood in such cases that management is not claiming intellectual ownership. Management is encouraged nevertheless to strive to give appropriate credit as feasible, recognizing that visibility of the researchers' work is beneficial to their career and the long-term success of JPL.

### **4a. Authorship of Press releases**

JPL has a well-developed policy for release of news and information, Document 57956 in JPL Rules!, which clearly states that interactions of JPL researchers with the media on JPL related issues are to be coordinated with JPL's media relations office. Additional information on NASA policy on news releases can be found on

[http://www.nasa.gov/audience/formedia/features/communication\\_policy.html](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/formedia/features/communication_policy.html).

There is no specific policy addressing ethical issues relevant to press releases, and the principles related to research integrity, authorship and sharing of credit which apply to refereed publications also apply to press releases. This can be facilitated by the fact that, in most cases, a JPL press release is based on a submitted or accepted journal article. A news release is a short document (two pages) that does not take the place of the journal article and does not attempt to repeat all of the same information. Instead, a news release presents key points of the study/paper and provides a reference to the journal name and publication date so that readers, including those who are science-savvy, may refer to the source document for more detailed information. A news release is meant to make the information understandable and relevant to the public at large and to the news and information media.

It is customary practice to quote the first author and/or the principal investigator of a research study. Additional co-authors may also be quoted. If there is sufficient room in the release, all the remaining authors and their affiliations may be listed at the end.

A JPL media representative writes the first draft of a press release, working in concert with the author(s). The text is then submitted for review and approval by the author's line management or the Project office, and is then reviewed by the JPL media relations, before being sent to NASA HQ for review and approval by Program executives. If any substantial changes are made to the release during the approval steps, the release is returned to the author(s) for review to ensure that no errors have been introduced.

Researchers whose results are based on data from a JPL flight project should be aware that the project should have a Public Affairs Plan which, for major projects, is a document signed by NASA Headquarters. This may be a useful guide to help researchers understand the public affairs process in more detail. Typically a project and its media representative will develop a few lines of boiler plate materials which are automatically incorporated into all the press releases, containing a general acknowledgment of the contributors.

## **b. Research Reporting**

### **1b. Good scholarship**

Authors should strive for accuracy and truth in reporting their findings. Ideally, good publications report original results and describe the methodology and the logic used for obtaining them with sufficient clarity to allow others to reproduce them, at least in principle. The findings should be of archival value, and represent an advancement of human knowledge. Experiment data and other records upon which openly published results depend ought to be preserved and be available to other scientists/engineers for some period of time, consistent with good safeguarding of project data. For research supported by taxpayers, the public has a right to access the products.

While good faith errors are not preventable, researchers should strive to minimize chances of erroneous research by adhering to accepted scientific methods, and by doing due diligence. Beyond honest errors are mistakes due to negligence, which include mistakes caused by carelessness, haste and inattention, often resulting in aggrandizement of one's own work.

Errors and negligence are distinguished from research misconduct (falsification, fabrication or plagiarism) in that research misconduct requires intent to deceive whereas honest errors and negligence are unintentional. While error and negligence may not rise to the level of research misconduct, producing research that is erroneous or the result of negligence can place the researcher's reputation, JPL's reputation and the public's confidence in JPL's scientific work product at risk.

Authors should avoid the practice of duplicative publication, i.e. publishing papers that contain only minimal advances or new results from previous papers by the same authors. The definition of a duplicative publication is subjective, but one

measure is for the authors to ask themselves whether the journal that accepted a previous related paper would accept the new paper as an original contribution.

### **2b. Self-Plagiarism**

Self-plagiarism, i.e. the intentional extensive verbatim reuse of previously written materials to generate duplicative publications, is a questionable research practice that impacts the integrity of one's scientific record, and reflects poorly on one's institution. Researchers should take great care when reusing material from previous publications to ensure that it represents generic descriptive text that is invariant from one publication to the next; that is required in order to present the context of new results; and that was originally written with the author's participation. Examples would be description of an experiment, a laboratory setup, an instrument or spacecraft. Excerpted text referring to analysis, results and conclusions should be called out with a reference and clear indication that a paragraph or section came from elsewhere. In all cases, the author should understand and follow any copyright rules surrounding appropriate re-use of published material.

### **3b. Website publications**

In recent years, new forms of website publications have been introduced, which rely on their own review system that may depart from the classical peer-review process generally applied by scientific and technical journals.

Some issues inherent to this means of communication are addressed, for example, in the following articles:

Arms W. (2006) "Ethics: Trust and Reputation on the Web," *Nature*  
doi:10.1038/nature05035.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/peerreview/debate/nature05035.html>

Clarke, M. (2009) "Ethics of Science Communication on the Web," *Ethics Sci Environ Polit*, doi: 10.3354/esep00096.

<http://www.int-res.com/articles/esep2009/9/journalism/e009pp2.pdf>

The release of scientific results through dedicated scientific websites in the form of preprints, is a recent practice that can take different forms: use of archival systems such as *arXiv*, preprint publications on personal websites, presentation of unpublished scientific material in personal blogs or in response to discussions and questions initiated in public websites about space exploration, etc.

As basic guidelines, authors should apply the same standards of good scholarship as those required for traditional publications, should mark the materials peer-reviewed or not, and should pay particular attention to copyright issues that might arise when a publication published in a Journal is considered for upload to a website archive as well. In particular, the author must be aware of the following: (i) Journals may require that the author certify that the publication has not been "published" anywhere else- posting on a website prior to Journal

publication is not consistent with that certification, (ii) JPL typically assigns copyright to a Journal for publication, so posting to websites may not be consistent with the copyright status, (iii) some Journals may allow posting to web pages, but place a moratorium on posting until the Journal has published, (iv) that if the copyright was released to the Journal's publisher, the version of the article in the website publication must be different from the version that is delivered by the Journal.

New scientific results or space mission observations should be disseminated by use of official mission websites. Review articles of a given topic for publication in online encyclopedias, e.g., Wikipedia, should include as many references as appropriate for any reader to check the nature of the data or results displayed in the review, and entries releasing JPL-generated scientific information are subject to the release of scientific and technical information Rule!. Entries should not include new results that have not been subject to prior peer-review.

### **c. References**

Authors should reference appropriately and thoroughly all previously published work, including information received verbally or privately, that impacts the work described in their manuscript. Authors should consider whether their references meet the standards of good scholarship. For example, is the historical record accurate? Does the reader have enough information to pursue theories, methodologies, analysis and conclusions invoked in the work? Poor referencing, even when there is no deliberate intent to appropriate someone else's work, can lead to the perception of plagiarism and be damaging to the author and JPL.

References to sources of data, images, laboratory or other facilities, and websites should also be included, as appropriate. One frequently asked question is how long after original publication work should continue to be referenced. While nobody explicitly references Maxwell, one should strive to reference impactful papers that have affected a field so profoundly that without them the work reported in the manuscript might not be possible.

Authorizations should be requested before referring to personal communications in articles, especially if the information was exchanged in oral form (e.g., in a meeting), to ensure that the quotation truly reflects the author's point of view.

### **d. Acknowledgements**

In addition to the funding sources, it is appropriate to acknowledge contributions limited in scope but relevant to the manuscript such as helpful discussions and suggestions, especially supportive individuals (managers, reviewers, etc.), use of laboratory equipment, computer codes, etc. Contributions that are technical in nature but deemed not sufficiently original to grant authorship (computer programming, data manipulation, laboratory technician's assistance) should be acknowledged.

### **e. Permissions**

Authors should avoid using proprietary information in manuscripts without obtaining prior approval from the owners. This applies to materials subject to copyright such as published figures and data, ideas and designs, etc. When publications involve authors from multiple organizations special care should be exercised to make sure that agreements on publication rights are adhered to.

### **f. Resolving Disputes**

Authorship should be a consensual activity, and researchers should decline to be co-authors of papers reporting research they do not agree with. As a consequence of conflicts, some researchers might discover that they have been excluded from a publication to which they made a contribution, or included against their will. These issues can be addressed in a number of ways, including discussing them with management, the Ethics Office or writing to the Journal Editor. The researcher's supervisor might be the first contact.

While there is no unique path to adjudication, project and line management have the responsibility to hear the concerns and address them appropriately. Project managers, PEMS, Task Managers/Leads, PIs should be cognizant of the roles, responsibilities and actual contributions of members of their teams and they can weigh in to help resolve disputes. Division/Section managers and Group Supervisors, if not cognizant themselves of such contributions, should identify the relevant Project or Task manager and work as a team to arrive at an acceptable resolution. A reasonable effort should be made to resolve the dispute at the level closest to the individuals involved before escalating to upper management.

In dealing with situations of conflict it is important to maintain a professional and respectful demeanor, using civility throughout the resolution process.

## **III. Reviewing**

Serving as reviewers on proposals, papers, and other items where original confidential materials are presented is a privilege that speaks to someone's good professional reputation. A reviewer should respect that confidentiality by not disseminating any information outside of the review board, and not take advantage of intelligence acquired as a reviewer to advance somebody else's interests. Researchers should disclose all possible conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from reviewing anything when they cannot understand the contents or remain impartial and discreet.

## **IV. Research in a flight project environment**

JPL projects generally produce large quantities of data, as they address previously uninvestigated scientific questions. Of particular interest here are the ethical responsibilities of the project and/or instrument science teams who may have privileged day-to-day access to the project databases. These groups of scientists, referred to below as the Science Team (ST), may also have proprietary or guaranteed access to certain data.

The general ethical principles that apply to all research are, of course, applicable to other JPL scientists who are drawing data from the Planetary Data System (PDS) or other mission-specific archives. These principles apply to the ST as well, however the ST faces a number of challenges specific to the project environment, including the following: firstly, large numbers of scientists may be involved in a particular team and deserve acknowledgment for or co-authorship of some or all of the results. Secondly, the scientific output of the mission may be enhanced in key areas by combining results from several instruments in one or more publications. Thirdly, there will be intense public and scientific interest in many of the results obtained by the mission. This will clearly apply to the initial data or Early Release Observations, but of course may occur later in the mission as results are synthesized or discoveries, such as the Enceladus geysers, are made serendipitously. Fourthly, some scientists may have devoted the bulk of their careers to a particular mission, while others may have joined the ST late in the mission or even after launch, which often occurs as the quality and quantity of the mission data become more obvious. Finally, scientists not previously associated with the mission may wish to collaborate or pool results with the ST; these opportunities often come up in advance of the launch.

Because each project has its own issues and constraints, it is not possible to produce general guidelines that are applicable to all projects and instruments. Instead, a well-managed project or instrument should develop a set of guidelines or policies, frequently called “The Rules of the Road” (RoR) to define how the ST addresses challenges such as those described above in publications, presentations, seminars, etc. The length, scope and level of detail of such plans varies, but all have in common that they are consistent with the general ethical principles applicable to all research. In fact, these RoR should be thought of as assuring that those principles are adhered to in the face of the unique pressures and opportunities of the project environment. It is the responsibility of the scientific leadership of a project or instrument team to see that such a set of RoR is in place well before launch, and to make certain that all members of the ST – including late comers and collaborators - are aware of them. Once the RoR are adopted and agreed to, it becomes an ethical responsibility of JPL researchers to abide by them. Examples of RoR or related documents from previous missions are available on [http://projectsupport/science\\_main.cfm](http://projectsupport/science_main.cfm) if newly formed project teams wish to consult them. Even the best-crafted RoR cannot anticipate all contingencies; however the RoR at the very least will establish a framework and process for dealing with unanticipated turns of events.

The foregoing is intended to apply to the external release of scientific information, either through publication or through presentation. Project internal reports (reports to NASA Headquarters, or reports to document project work, or workshops sponsored by the project) are generally not published in the peer-reviewed literature. However, project internal reports should adhere to the same standards of attribution as is done for peer-reviewed literature for the same

reasons – to give credit where credit is due, to ensure that previous work is traceable, and to preserve an accurate record of the origin of important ideas relevant to project work.

In addition to, and separate from scientific results, many aspects of the engineering implementation and technological developments are original and worthy of publication. Flight project leadership should encourage such publications, for the same reasons discussed above.

## **V. Intellectual property and related issues**

Intellectual property (IP) refers to a creation of the mind and the legal aspects of ownership and use of such. Although IP has a specific legal definition, see JPL Document ID 10685 and related material (in JPL Rules!), it also has a loosely accepted layman definition that applies to someone's intellectual contributions including ideas, analysis and conclusions, designs and implementations, etc. irrespective of whether there are actual copyrights, patents or trademarks. The following sections of the guidelines address these aspects.

### **a. Intellectual property in collaborations**

A number of informal technical and scientific exchanges occur on a daily basis where ideas or insights are offered that might enable significant progress and problem solving. Researchers should be respectful of the helpful contributions that are received from colleagues, even those who are not formally involved in their research projects and acknowledge the contribution appropriately, even with authorship when warranted.

Researchers should be mindful that certain information, results, tools and equipment they access might be somebody's intellectual property and give appropriate credit and respect for the work.

### **b. Intellectual property in proposals**

Proposals should call out and give appropriate credit to each contributor. For proposals generated by JPL and non-JPL contributors, a distinction should be noted as to what intellectual property is considered the JPL contribution and what is non-JPL. If not specifically called out, it should be considered joint (which may be the case much of the time).

At JPL researchers write many different types of proposals. On one hand, there are proposals for small research awards driven by ideas from individuals or small teams, while on the other hand there are large proposals with defined deliverables. The assumptions on intellectual ownership of materials developed in the proposals are very different depending on the category. In all cases members of proposal teams ought to be free from conflict (i.e., not engaged in competing proposals without explicit disclosure, and monitored firewall conditions when appropriate).

Small research proposals are self-started and largely self-organized, where collaborative agreements are made between the principal investigator and a (small) number of co-investigators, based on their relative intellectual contributions. Generally, the investigators feel a personal investment and ownership.

Proposals for JPL internal investment funds that are part of Research and Technology Development (R&TD) Strategic Initiatives are in a special category. These tasks are identified by a Program Directorate as being needed to fill a technology gap, in preparation for a mission or program opportunity. Often the Principal Investigator is assigned by the Directorate to implement a task that might have been developed by a group of people, and might change over time. The intellectual ownership is in some cases transferred among individuals who are brought together to perform an institutional duty.

Large competitive proposals are driven by the strategic interests of the Laboratory, and are subject to a high level of organization and scrutiny in their preparation. In many cases they involve teams from different institutions, and JPL might negotiate agreements with them regarding their specific contributions. In these cases the participating investigators agree to play a role that is consistent with what the Laboratory is requiring of them, adhering to agreements on specific developments, communication or disclosure of information.

In both (of the last two) cases there should be no presumption of personal ownership of any research materials produced in the course of this work for JPL.

## **VI – Author Certification of Compliance with JPL Research Ethics**

In order to help the authors clarify some basic rules, the following check list has been added to the Unlimited Release System <https://unlimitedrelease.jpl.nasa.gov>, JPL's Document Review site for document clearance submittal.

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I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

1. No ethics rules were violated in the conduct of this research.
2. Each author has made a substantial contribution to the work described in this document, and no person who has done so has been excluded.
3. If this is a publication\*, all authors have had the opportunity to review this document; among them, there are no irreconcilable disagreements with any substantive aspect of the research described in this document.
4. If this is a publication, this document describes significant new work, and is not merely a small modification to work that has already been published.

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Please note:

If you are the lead author, checking the box indicates that the four ethics rules have been observed in the document.

If you are a co-author, checking the box acknowledges that you have made a reasonable attempt to verify that the four rules have been followed.

If you CANNOT in good conscience check the box, do not proceed with this URS submission. If there is a potential ethics issue, discuss it with your direct supervisor. If you are able to resolve the issue, you can submit a new URS request for clearance to release this document.

\* Examples: a journal article; refereed paper in a conference proceedings; published report; and book/book chapter.

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It is hoped that authors adhere to the spirit of the above rules at all times in the conduct of their research.

## Appendix

### Websites for Additional Resources

Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE)

Use this link as a start: <http://spie.org/x14098.xml> and then

<http://spie.org/Documents/ConferencesExhibitions/SPIE%20Publications%20Ethics%20Guidelines.pdf>

American Geophysical Union (<http://www.agu.org/pubs/authors/policies>) --

→ Partial information in comparison to, e.g., Nature or ACS

Caltech - Intellectual Property and Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Portal)

<http://libguides.caltech.edu/content.php?pid=49560&sid=364218>

→ Oriented almost only on copyright and patents questions

Author and Reviewer Resource Center

American Chemical Society (Reprinted [in part] with permission from “Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research,” Chem. Rev. 2001, 101, p. 13A–15A. Copyright 1985, 1989, 1995, 2001 American

Chemical Society.) (<http://pubs.acs.org/instruct/ethic.html>)

→ That link actually leads to another one

(<http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/submission/index.html>), which is not directly relevant to ethics

Direct access to the ACS ethics website is available from

<http://www.onlineethics.org/>

American Physical Society ([http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02\\_2.cfm](http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02_2.cfm))

→ Directly accessible from <http://www.onlineethics.org>

IEEE

[http://www.ieee.org/web/publications/rights/Plagiarism\\_Guidelines\\_Intro.html](http://www.ieee.org/web/publications/rights/Plagiarism_Guidelines_Intro.html)

→ Directly accessible from <http://www.onlineethics.org/>

## Articles on Specific Issues

Nature article about the handling of research misconduct

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v453/n7198/full/453957a.html>

Articles about science and publications ethics

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/topstory/7946/7946sci1.html>

[http://www.its.caltech.edu/%7Edg/conduct\\_art.html](http://www.its.caltech.edu/%7Edg/conduct_art.html)

AAAS – Strategies for Competitiveness in Academic Research (edited by Scott Hauger and Cecilia McEnaney, 2000)

<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rcp/strategy.htm>

How to Handle Authorship Disputes: A Guide For New Researchers, by T. Albert and E. Wager, The Cope Report 2003.

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