



## Science Culture & Accountability Plan

### Purpose

The Department of Medicine (DOM) is committed to promoting a culture in which scientific results are critically reviewed, accountability for data integrity is clearly delineated, and concerns can be brought forth without hesitation.

The School of Medicine has created the Duke Office of Scientific Integrity (DOSI) to support individual departments in adopting and implementing policies and procedures related to best practices for scientific accountability and integrity. The DOM encourages all faculty to participate in the DOSI educational activities and SOM research forums. In addition, responsible conduct of research training is required of all faculty engaged in research. All faculty are required to read and confirm understanding of the Department's Science Culture & Accountability Plan (DOM-SCAP) as outlined below. Additional information is available through DOSI, the DOM SCAP URL and the resources noted below.

- NIH Office of Research Integrity (<http://ori.hhs.gov/>)
- Guidelines for the Proper Handling of Digital Image Data (<http://jcb.rupress.org/content/166/1/11.full>)
- Online Learning Tool for Research Integrity and Image Processing (<http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/RlandImages/default.html>)
- Duke IntegrityLine (800-826-8109) to anonymously report a suspected compliance violation or concern
- DOSI website: <https://dosi.duke.edu/>
- DOM-SCAP website: <https://medicine.duke.edu/research/science-culture-and-accountability>

### Principles

The DOM-SCAP details three levels of responsibility – individual, division and department – for promoting a culture that encourages responsible data management and produces data of the highest integrity. The DOM-SCAP reflects these important principles:

1. We foster an environment where scientific integrity is the highest priority.
2. We emphasize high-quality, reproducible data and results.
3. We value constructive critiques of research.
4. We encourage open discussion of any concerns regarding research conduct or integrity.

Each and every member of the DOM – faculty, trainees, staff and administrators – is expected to reflect and pursue these values. Ours is a shared commitment to the highest standards of scientific activity.

**As an individual researcher, I attest to the following best practices to promote the culture of scientific accountability within my research group.**

- Discuss the DOM-SCAP principles outlined above with my research team.
- Develop explicit processes within my research group to monitor compliance with these policies.

- Engage collaborators, statisticians, and other relevant research team members in a culture of accountability with well-defined study goals, careful review of techniques or analytic approaches for reproducing and comparing results from our research.
- Consider cross training research personnel so that one person can independently verify the results of another, so that no one person is alone in providing data or analysis.
- Implement a policy of best practices with respect to research records, utilizing electronic record keeping, where feasible, and securely storing raw data recorded from instruments.
- Consider repeated experiments or analyses to independently confirm findings.
- Report concerns about research integrity to DOM Research Quality Officers and/or divisional integrity coordinators.
- Maintain an updated Conflict of Interest form with the SOM that will be shared with collaborators, research personnel and administrators as appropriate.

**As a Division/Institute member within the DOM, I additionally attest to the following:**

- Remain compliant with institutional training modules in responsible data management and research conduct.
- Prepare a data management plan within my research group that will be reviewed with the Division Chief or with the DOM Research Quality Team on an annual basis.
- Present research findings at Divisional/Institute seminars, Research in Progress meetings and/or multi-disciplinary groups, and participate in critical review of data and maintain a record of participation in these meetings.
- Commit to annual participation in continuing educational activities sponsored by the SOM, DOM or my Division/Institute around data management and/or scientific integrity

**As a member of the Department of Medicine, I attest to safeguard the principles of the DOM-SCAP.**