

# THE COMPASS

A BULLETIN BY THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS OFFICE



## Designer Babies and the Human Biomedical Research Act

The scandal of a Chinese scientist who created the world's first gene-edited babies has provoked, shocked and outraged scientists around the world. Do they now have shortened life spans, or do they have enhanced memories and learning abilities? The unknown risks associated with off-target effects and mosaicism are discussed in a recent Science article titled "**Did CRISPR help—or harm—the first-ever gene-edited babies?**" [\[+Read more\]](#)

In Singapore, research involving human eggs or human embryos are **restricted**, while those involving a human embryo 14 days and older are **prohibited**. Conducting restricted studies without obtaining **IRB and MOH approval**, or conducting prohibited studies, are contraventions under the **Human Biomedical Research Act (HBRA)**. Penalties include fines up to \$100,000 or imprisonment up to 10 years, or both.

For more information on HBRA, refer to NTU's [IRB website](#). For further queries, please write to [IRB@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:IRB@ntu.edu.sg).



## Awareness on Academic Integrity

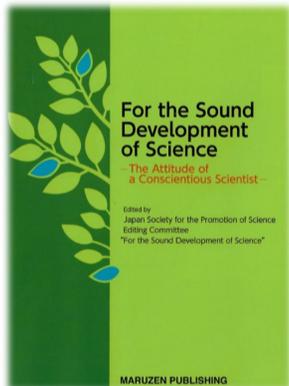
Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

- Oprah Winfrey

Academic integrity is based on the principles of **honesty, trust, respect, responsibility and courage**, as described by author Sofia Garcia-Bulle in an article titled "[Is academic integrity obsolete in the 21st century?](#)". The author notes that students seem to increasingly demonstrate an oversimplified understanding of academic misconduct as one that comprises **plagiarism and cheating**, often ignoring the more serious aspects of **fabrication and falsification**.

**At NTU**, annual talks are conducted for new graduate research students by Schools to remind them of their responsibilities as a researcher. These students are also required to complete an online training course, **ERI701**, so that they are aware practices governing research integrity prior to commencing actual research work.

Academic integrity is seen as fundamental in preparing students for working life after graduation. All stakeholders, i.e. educators and institutions, play an active role in ensuring the practice of integrity in all aspects of work and study.



## Follow up to Research Integrity Seminar

On **7 Aug 2019**, RIEO held a seminar on research integrity to showcase NTU's abstracts presented at the [6th World Conference on Research Integrity](#). This seminar featured 3 oral presentations, of which 2 were awardees of the [2018 Research Integrity Grant Call](#) that was aimed at raising awareness of good research work carried out by NTU's researchers.

The **2019 Research Integrity grant call** has been launched to further research on understanding the behaviours affecting the practice of research integrity and ethics in NTU. Application deadline was on 16 Aug 2019 with all proposals received currently undergoing review. Applicants will be notified of their award status by mid Sep 2019.



**Deadlines:** **NTU-IACUC:** Next due date for new AUP submissions is **1 Oct 2019**. [\[+Read more\]](#).  
**NTU-IRB:** New submissions are due on Mondays of every week. [\[+Read more\]](#).

**Email Us:** [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [RIEO](#) [NTU Research Integrity Officer](#)

**Web Links:** [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [Research Integrity](#) [ARFMS](#)

