



# Research Integrity and Ethics

Basic research ethics principles and the South African legislative environment governing research with human and animal participants

**YEBO! TRAINING SESSION**

**11 March 2020**

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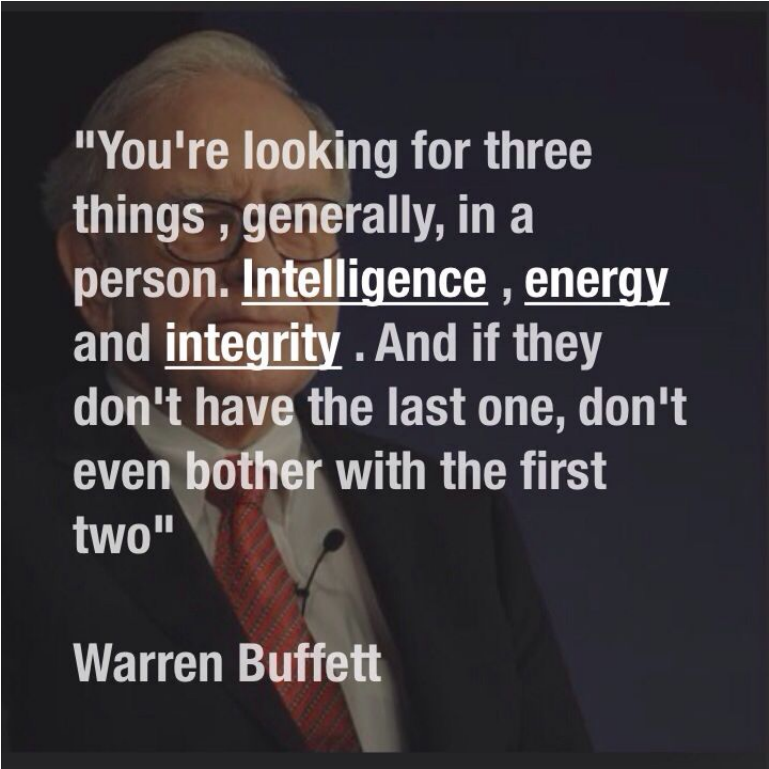
Stellenbosch University



## What defines a person of integrity?



- is the same authentic person regardless of the situation
- makes decisions reflective of values
- intentionally reflects on how to behave
- recognise when not acting with integrity and rectify behavior.



"You're looking for three things , generally, in a person. Intelligence , energy and integrity . And if they don't have the last one, don't even bother with the first two"

**Warren Buffett**



## What is Research Integrity?



- A commitment to the trust-worthiness of the research process by the academic community
- Without it, the complex interplay of parts that constitutes the research endeavor, disintegrates

“**INTEGRITY,**  
**THE CHOICE BETWEEN**  
**WHAT'S CONVENIENT**  
**AND WHAT'S RIGHT.”**

-Tony Dungy, *Uncommon*



## Integrity vs Ethics?



### **Integrity**

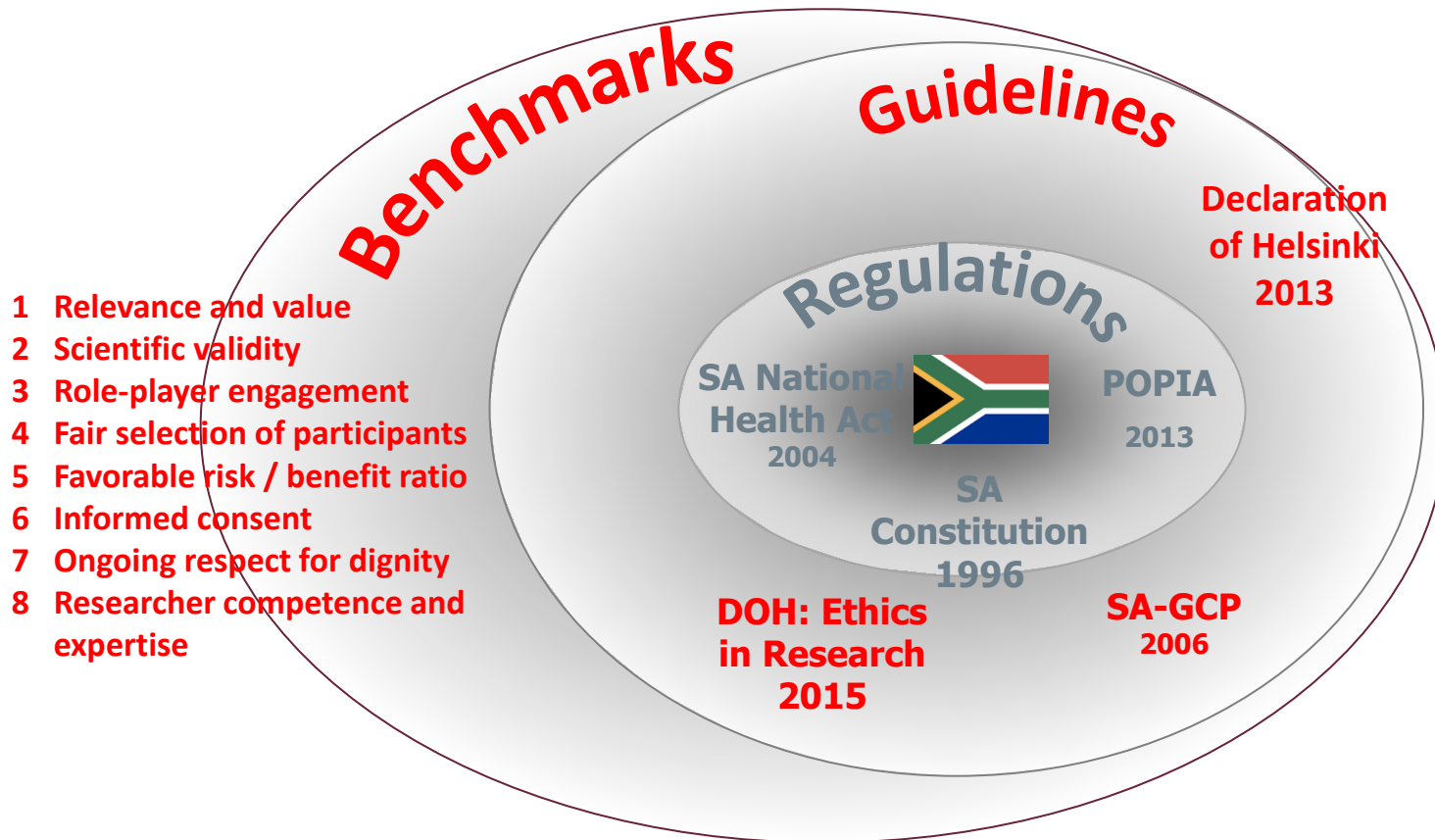
- Quality of being honest and fair
- Personal choice
- Internal, cannot be imposed on individuals

### **Ethics**

- Rules and regulations to ensure work is done in accordance to moral principles
- Not a choice
- External and imposed

(<https://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-ethics-and-vs-integrity/>)







## Relevance and value

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- The community in which the research is being done or at least the people of South Africa should potentially gain important generalizable knowledge from the research
- Researchers ought not expose human beings to inconvenience or risk of harm without possible benefit to society.



## Scientific validity



- “Unless research generates **reliable and valid data that can be interpreted and used by the specified beneficiaries of the research**, it will have no social value and participants may be exposed to risks for no benefits” (Emanuel, et al, 2008: 127)
- Design, methods and approach must be justifiable and feasible



## Role-player engagement

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- Research is done **WITH** people, not **TO** people
- The community in which study is conducted should ideally provide input into planning and conceptualization of research
- Seeking the community's agreement and input helps ensure that the community is not exploited and improves the chances of uptake and final impact of the research





## Fair selection of participants

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- Inclusion and exclusion criteria for research participants must be based on good science and ethics and be just and fair
- Persons should not be excluded on the basis of race, gender, language etc unless specifically justifiable in the context of the research; the reverse is also true- participants should not be specifically targeted based on race, gender etc. **unless well motivated**



## Favorable risk / benefit ratio

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- The likelihood of benefit should outweigh the anticipated risk of harm to participants
- “i.e. the likelihood of benefit at least to the category of person involved should outweigh the risk of harm to participants as well as to the community or society as a whole”



## Informed consent

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- Participation in research should be voluntary and predicated on an informed choice.
- Valid informed consent means:
  - a) Individual has the capacity to understand and make decisions
  - b) Receives relevant information about the study and understands the information
  - c) Consents voluntarily and without coercion
  - d) Continues to consent throughout the study



## Ongoing respect for dignity

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- Treat participants with respect from the time they are approached – even if they refuse enrollment, throughout their participation, and even after the research is complete.
- E.g. monitoring of participants well-being, protection of privacy and confidentiality, respect for decisions to withdraw or refusal to answer questions, feedback to communities, etc.



## Researcher competence and expertise

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- Researchers must be suitably qualified and technically competent to carry out the research.
- Competence includes research competence, which is assessed in terms of education, knowledge, certification and experience
- It also includes appropriate ethics training
- <https://elearning.trree.org/>



- Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962
- Animal Health Act 7 of 2002
- Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Act 19 of 1982
- Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 169 of 1993
- The South African National Standard (SANS 10386:2008) for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes



- live, sentient non-human vertebrate, including eggs, foetuses and embryos, that is; fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, and encompassing domestic animals, purpose-bred animals, farm animals, wildlife and higher invertebrates such as the advanced members from the *Cephalopoda* and *Decapoda*



## 3 R's:

1. Replace, 2. Reduce, 3. Refine, (4. Responsible)

## 5 Freedoms:

### 1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor.

### 2. Freedom from Discomfort

by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

### 3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease

by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

### 4. Freedom to Express Normal Behavior

by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

### 5. Freedom from Fear and Distress

by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.





Important!!!

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## **Definition of Scientific Procedures for which Section 23(1)(c) Authorisation is Required under the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act (Act 19 of 1982)**

- Authorisation is required for procedures defined as veterinary or para-veterinary procedures, services or functions in the Regulations or Rules for the veterinary or para-veterinary professions; or for clinical veterinary or para-veterinary procedures that are carried out on animals for scientific purposes, that may cause an animal a level of fear, pain, suffering, distress, deterioration or lasting harm, that is equivalent to, or higher than, that caused by inserting a hypodermic needle according to good veterinary practice.



# Thank you!



7<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE ON  
RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Cape Town, South Africa  
30 May – 2 June 2021

