

ASSOCIATION OF OCULAR PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The members of the Association of Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics (AOPT) endorse the following statement of general principles for those who participate in the activities of the AOPT.

The AOPT is an organisation, whose mission is “*to encourage and advocate research, training, publication and dissemination of knowledge in ocular pharmacology and therapeutics*”.

To further reach this goal, AOPT convenes congresses, seminars, workshops and lectures; maintains a website and other communications vehicles; advises public bodies and the media; provides opportunities for education and networking for young researchers; and conducts other activities and initiatives in the execution of its mission.

AOPT insists that the principles of its ethical code of conduct be followed in all of its activities and communications. These include:

- **Research:** it should be conducted to the highest standards possible, with moral integrity and respect for human dignity and animal welfare. This implies adherence to accepted guidelines of ethical practice, the relevant international regulations and national recommendations, and the appropriate scientific and ethical study approval. All research findings should be reported or made available in a timely fashion, fully and honestly, both in the professional literature and in presentations at scientific meetings. Conflict of interest should always be declared in any research undertaking, manuscript submission, scientific publication, academic presentation or public information, and any interference undermining professional integrity should be opposed.
- **Professional integrity:** ocular pharmacologists should dedicate themselves to the highest standards of competence, honesty, professionalism and social and community responsibility. They will abide by the legal and regulatory requirements where their efforts and work are located. Ethical publication practice should be maintained, including attention to issues of authorship, disclosure of conflict of interest, reproducibility, credit and acknowledgement, manuscript review and truthful content. Appropriate efforts must be made to give due credit to the pertinent prior work of others. Co-authorship must be based upon substantial intellectual contribution. A commitment to ongoing education in the medical sciences is critical to the maintenance and improvement of clinical and research knowledge, skills and overall competence and is therefore expected of all pharmacologists.
- **Scientific co-operation:** ocular pharmacologists have the responsibility to act in an atmosphere of co-operation and respect with colleagues and research collaborators.