



Ethics Policy

1. Introduction

1.1. The International Society for Gastrointestinal Hereditary Tumours (InSiGHT) is an Incorporated Charity with objects to:

- Improve the standard of knowledge including through the identification of genetic predisposition of gastrointestinal hereditary tumour syndromes (GIHTS) and any condition resulting in the GIHTS and the relief of sickness and preservation of health of those suffering from GIHTS and their families.
- Advance the education of the public in all areas relating to GIHTS to include education of the physicians and other healthcare workers in the molecular genetics and clinical management of GIHTS.

1.2. InSiGHT's vision and values underpin its role. Only by adopting ethical standards can InSiGHT give practical meaning to its vision and values.

1.3. The aim of the Ethics Policy is that everyone who is a member of or working for InSiGHT, including its database committees and Council, should know what behaviour is acceptable.

1.4. Ethical behaviour is not just a question of whether something we do is legal but whether it is right by InSiGHT and its stakeholders. This policy aims to ensure that everyone knows what is right and does what is right.

1.5. This policy pertains to the Society; the activities of the InSiGHT genetic variant databases and Variant Interpretation Committees (VIC) are covered by an additional policy, and overseen by the VIC Governance Committee.

2. Ethical Behaviour

2.1. Basic tenets of ethical behaviour:

- Honesty – no hidden agendas in dealing with others, no hidden secrets; reliability, integrity, truthfulness.

- Fairness – ‘do unto others as you would be done by’, being consistent, treating others with equal respect, not bending the rules for a favoured few.
- Justice – just conduct, fairness and exercise of authority in the maintenance of what is right by the InSiGHT and its stakeholders.
- Mutual respect – consideration for the rights and well-being of others; being concerned to understand the needs of others.
- Stewardship – being concerned for the care and proper use of the InSiGHT’s assets and people over which one has power, control or influence.

2.2. Common examples of unethical behaviour:

- Giving gifts, gratuities, benefits or favours to influence decisions or actions.
- Not disclosing interests that may conflict with the interests of InSiGHT.
- Being dishonest with customers, suppliers, colleagues or other stakeholders.
- Discrimination - rewarding or penalising someone for reasons unrelated to their work-related performance.
- Stealing the ideas of others and not giving them credit.
- Falsifying reports or records.
- Over-claiming expenses.
- Petty theft of InSiGHT property.
- Disclosure of confidential information for personal reasons or lack of care.
- Making derogatory remarks about InSiGHT or a colleague in public, eg, when talking on a mobile on public transport or on social media.

2.3. Frequently repeated unethical behaviour may become common practice which can seem, wrongly, to confer acceptability.



3. External Perspective

3.1. From an external perspective, particular care to ensure ethical behaviour is needed in the following areas of InSiGHT's activities:

- Work involving patients or handling information derived from such work
- Fund raising and disbursement
- Selection of Council
- Organisation of biennial meeting and other educational events
- Endorsement

4. Policy requirements

4.1. The Ethics Policy will promote and support the vision and values of InSiGHT.

4.2. Council will implement its Ethics Policy.

4.3 All Council members will be required to declare potential conflicts of interest in writing at the time of election, and at the beginning of each Council meeting.

4.4. Participation in the development of ethical standards and their codification in a code or codes of conduct should be as wide as is practicable within InSiGHT as a whole in order to encourage wide ownership.

4.5. Policies and processes in all areas of InSiGHT's activities should be designed to reward ethical behaviour and to discourage and penalise unethical behaviour.

4.6. A channel for any individual in confidence to seek advice and support on an ethical issue without fear of victimisation or retaliation may be established separately from the formal management structure. Alternatively, any individual may approach the Chair or any other Member of Council in confidence about such an issue.

4.7 Awareness of and ownership of high standards of ethical behaviour should be maintained through a continuing program of education and training.



4.8 Breaches of this policy, and other behaviour by members of InSiGHT that could bring the society into disrepute will be referred to Council.

4.7 This policy may be amended at the discretion of Council.

Date of Council approval 9 May 2023

Date for review 8 May 2026

