

**MEMORANDUM**  
**Action Item**

**DATE:** February 2, 2014

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Felice J. Levine, Executive Director

**RE:** AERA Endorsement of Singapore Statement

The Singapore Statement on Research Integrity ("Singapore Statement"), developed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity in 2010, is intended to provide global guidance for the responsible conduct of research. The document covers four general principles: honesty in all aspects of research, accountability in the conduct of research, professional courtesy and fairness in working with others, and good stewardship of research on behalf of others. The statement also contains 14 responsibilities that fundamental to research integrity. A former member of the AERA Ethics Committee, Melissa Anderson, served on the Statement Drafting Committee.

Several research organizations have endorsed the Singapore Statement, including the World Educational Research Association, which agreed to support the statement on April 18, 2012. The Ethics Committee considered the possibility for the AERA to endorse the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity on April 5, 2013.

The Ethics Committee discussed the intersections between the Singapore Statement and the AERA Code of Ethics, agreeing that the two are compatible in their aims to promote ethical conduct in research. The committee unanimously recommended that the AERA Council move to endorse the Singapore Statement, as follows:

The Ethics Committee transmits the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity to the AERA Council, affirms that the statement is consistent with the AERA Code of Ethics and particularly elaborates on Principle B on Integrity, and recommends that the Association endorse this statement and support its dissemination to the educational research community.

**Motion:** To endorse the principles and responsibilities of the 2010 Singapore Statement on Research Integrity.

# Singapore Statement on Research Integrity

**Preamble.** The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of research. While there can be and are national and disciplinary differences in the way research is organized and conducted, there are also principles and professional responsibilities that are fundamental to the integrity of research wherever it is undertaken.

## PRINCIPLES

***Honesty*** in all aspects of research

***Accountability*** in the conduct of research

***Professional courtesy and fairness*** in working with others

***Good stewardship*** of research on behalf of others

## RESPONSIBILITIES

**1. Integrity:** Researchers should take responsibility for the trustworthiness of their research.

**2. Adherence to Regulations:** Researchers should be aware of and adhere to regulations and policies related to research.

**3. Research Methods:** Researchers should employ appropriate research methods, base conclusions on critical analysis of the evidence and report findings and interpretations fully and objectively.

**4. Research Records:** Researchers should keep clear, accurate records of all research in ways that will allow verification and replication of their work by others.

**5. Research Findings:** Researchers should share data and findings openly and promptly, as soon as they have had an opportunity to establish priority and ownership claims.

**6. Authorship:** Researchers should take responsibility for their contributions to all publications, funding applications, reports and other representations of their research. Lists of authors should include all those and only those who meet applicable authorship criteria.

**7. Publication Acknowledgement:** Researchers should acknowledge in publications the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to the research, including writers, funders, sponsors, and others, but do not meet authorship criteria.

**8. Peer Review:** Researchers should provide fair, prompt and rigorous evaluations and respect confidentiality when reviewing others' work.

**9. Conflict of Interest:** Researchers should disclose financial and other conflicts of interest that could compromise the trustworthiness of their work in research proposals, publications and public communications as well as in all review activities.

**10. Public Communication:** Researchers should limit professional comments to their recognized expertise when engaged in public discussions about the application and importance of research findings and clearly distinguish professional comments from opinions based on personal views.

**11. Reporting Irresponsible Research Practices:** Researchers should report to the appropriate authorities any suspected research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, and other irresponsible research practices that undermine the trustworthiness of research, such as carelessness, improperly listing authors, failing to report conflicting data, or the use of misleading analytical methods.

**12. Responding to Irresponsible Research Practices:** Research institutions, as well as journals, professional organizations and agencies that have commitments to research, should have procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct and other irresponsible research practices and for protecting those who report such behavior in good faith. When misconduct or other irresponsible research practice is confirmed, appropriate actions should be taken promptly, including correcting the research record.

**13. Research Environments:** Research institutions should create and sustain environments that encourage integrity through education, clear policies, and reasonable standards for advancement, while fostering work environments that support research integrity.

**14. Societal Considerations:** Researchers and research institutions should recognize that they have an ethical obligation to weigh societal benefits against risks inherent in their work.