SECTION J: RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

INTRODUCTION
CRCs/CCRCs who conduct research are encouraged to contribute to the knowledge base of the profession. They promote the welfare of individuals with disabilities as well as a clearer understanding of the conditions that lead to a healthy and more just society. CRCs/CCRCs support the efforts of researchers by participating fully and willingly whenever possible. CRCs/CCRCs minimize bias and respect diversity in designing and implementing research. CRCs/CCRCs understand the need for research that includes diverse populations, including individuals with disabilities and other racial/ethnic and marginalized groups.

J.1. RESEARCH RESPONSIBILITIES

a. MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSITY FACTORS IN RESEARCH. CRCs/CCRCs plan, design, conduct, and report research in a manner that is mindful of multicultural considerations and reflect sensitivity to cultural values, beliefs, behaviors, and impacts of research outcomes. CRCs/CCRCs, when appropriate, take steps to include a) diverse samples and populations, b) diverse study sites, and c) multiculturally appropriate research methods.
b. USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS. CRCs/CCRCs plan, design, conduct, and report research in a manner that is consistent with pertinent ethical principles, applicable laws, host institutional regulations, and organizational and scientific standards governing research with human subjects. CRCs/CCRCs seek consultation when appropriate.

c. CONFIDENTIALITY IN RESEARCH. CRCs/CCRCs are responsible for understanding and adhering to applicable laws and organizational policies and all other pertinent guidelines regarding confidentiality in their research practices.

d. INSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL. When institutional review board (IRB) approval is required, CRCs/CCRCs provide accurate information about their research proposals and obtain approval prior to conducting their research. They conduct research in accordance with the approved research protocols. If changes to the research protocols are made, amendments are submitted to the IRB for further approval in a timely manner.

e. INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS. When CRCs/CCRCs conduct independent research and do not have access to an institutional review board, they are bound to the same ethical principles and laws pertaining to the review of their plan, design, conduct, and reporting of research. Independent researchers not familiar with institutional review board standards seek appropriate consultation.

f. DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PRACTICES. CRCs/CCRCs seek consultation and observe stringent safeguards to protect the rights of research subjects when a research-related problem indicates that a deviation from standard or acceptable practices may be necessary.

g. DATA STORAGE. CRCs/CCRCs inform participants how data is stored, including how privacy and confidentiality is maintained, and for how long the raw data is stored.

h. PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID INJURY. CRCs/CCRCs who conduct research with human subjects are responsible for the welfare of participants throughout the research process and take reasonable precautions to avoid causing psychological, emotional, physical, or social harm to participants.

i. PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER RESPONSIBILITY. The ultimate responsibility for ethical research practice lies with the principal researcher(s). All others involved in the research activities share ethical obligations and responsibilities for their own actions.

j. MINIMAL INTERFERENCE. CRCs/CCRCs take precautions to avoid causing disruption in the lives of research participants or the setting in which research is conducted.

J.2. RIGHTS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

a. INFORMED CONSENT IN RESEARCH. Individuals have the right to consent to or decline requests to become research participants. CRCs/CCRCs conducting research obtain consent from participants prior to initiating research. In seeking consent, CRCs/CCRCs
(1) accurately explain the purpose and procedures to be followed;
(2) identify any procedures that are experimental or relatively untried;
(3) describe any attendant discomforts and risks;
(4) describe any benefits or changes in individuals or organizations that might be reasonably expected;
(5) disclose appropriate alternative procedures that would be advantageous for participants;
(6) offer to answer any inquiries concerning the procedures;
(7) describe any limitations on confidentiality;
(8) describe formats and potential target audiences for the dissemination of research findings;
(9) instruct participants they are free to withdraw their consent and to discontinue participation in the project at any time without penalty; and
(10) use language that is easily understood by participants.

b. DECEPTION. CRCs/CCRCs do not conduct research involving deception unless alternative procedures are not feasible. If such deception has the potential to cause physical or emotional harm to research participants, the research is not conducted, regardless of prospective value. When the methodological requirements of a study necessitate concealment or deception, the investigator explains the reasons for this action as soon as possible during the debriefing.

c. STUDENT/SUPERVISEE PARTICIPATION. CRCs/CCRCs who involve students or supervisees in research make clear to them the decision regarding participation in research activities does not affect their academic standing or supervisory relationship. Senior researchers or faculty have an obligation to teach students/supervisees how to conduct research in an ethical and thorough manner. Students or supervisees who choose not to participate in research are provided with an appropriate alternative to fulfill their academic or clinical requirements.

d. CLIENT PARTICIPATION. CRCs/CCRCs conducting research involving clients make clear in the informed consent process that clients are free to choose whether to participate in research activities and are free to withdraw from research studies without adverse consequences.

e. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION. Confidential information obtained about research participants during the course of research remains confidential. When the possibility exists that others may obtain access to such information, ethical research practice requires the possibility, together with the plans for protecting confidentiality, be explained to participants as part of the procedures for obtaining informed consent.

f. RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NOT CAPABLE OF GIVING INFORMED CONSENT. When research participants are not capable of giving informed consent, CRCs/CCRCs obtain informed consent from a legally authorized representative and assent from the research participant.

g. COMMITMENTS TO PARTICIPANTS. CRCs/CCRCs take reasonable measures to honor all commitments to research participants.

h. AGREEMENT OF CONTRIBUTORS. CRCs/CCRCs conducting joint research establish agreements in advance regarding allocation of tasks, publication credit, and types of acknowledgment received, and incur an obligation to cooperate as agreed. Order of authorship on manuscripts or presentations is discussed and agreed upon before beginning projects, and allocation of tasks and responsibilities reflect this order.

i. INFORMING SPONSORS. CRCs/CCRCs inform sponsors, institutions, and publication channels of research procedures and outcomes. CRCs/CCRCs ensure that appropriate bodies and authorities are given pertinent information and acknowledgment.

j. RESEARCH RECORDS CUSTODIAN. As appropriate, CRCs/CCRCs prepare and disseminate to an identified colleague or records custodian a plan for the transfer of research data in the case of their incapacitation, retirement, or death.

J.3. REPORTING RESULTS

a. ACCURATE RESULTS. CRCs/CCRCs plan, conduct, and report research accurately. They provide accurate discussions of the limitations of their data and alternative hypotheses. CRCs/CCRCs do not engage in misleading or fraudulent research; further, they do not distort data, misrepresent data, or deliberately bias their results. They explicitly mention all variables and conditions known to the investigator(s) that may have affected the outcome of studies or interpretations of data. They describe the extent to which results are applicable to diverse populations.

b. OBLIGATION TO REPORT UNFAVORABLE RESULTS. CRCs/CCRCs report the results of any research of professional value, regardless of outcomes. Results that reflect unfavorably on institutions, programs, services, prevailing opinions, or vested interests are not withheld. When reporting unfavorable results, CRCs/CCRCs take care to remain objective in the presentation of results and do not otherwise harm the institutions, agencies, programs, or services being studied.

c. REPORTING ERRORS. If CRCs/CCRCs discover significant errors in their published research, they take reasonable steps to correct such errors in a correction erratum or other appropriate publication means.

d. IDENTITY OF PARTICIPANTS. CRCs/CCRCs who supply data aid in the research of another investigator, report research results, or make original data available take due care to disguise the identity of respective participants in the absence of specific authorization from the participants to do otherwise. In situations where participants self-identify their involvement in research studies, researchers make reasonable efforts to ensure that data are adapted/changed to protect the identities and welfare of all parties and that discussion of results does not cause harm to participants.

e. REPLICATION STUDIES. CRCs/CCRCs make reasonable efforts to make available sufficient original research information to qualified professionals who may wish to replicate the study.

J.4. RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

a. PLAGIARISM. CRCs/CCRCs do not plagiarize.

b. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. CRCs/CCRCs respect the intellectual contributions of others and do not use or appropriate the works of others without first obtaining consent and providing appropriate credit. CRCs/CCRCs do not represent the information obtained from professional conference presentations, informal presentations or trainings, and published materials as their own.

c. USE OF CASE STUDIES. The use of information from participants, clients, students, or supervisees for the purpose of case examples in a presentation or publication is permissible only when (1) participants, clients, students, or supervisees have reviewed the material and agreed to its presentation or publication; or (2) the information has been sufficiently modified to obscure identity.

d. ACKNOWLEDGING PREVIOUS WORK. When conducting and reporting research, including replication studies, CRCs/CCRCs are familiar with and give recognition to previous work on the topic, observe copyright laws, and fully credit those to whom credit is due.

e. CONTRIBUTOR(S). CRCs/CCRCs give credit through joint authorship, acknowledgment, footnote statements, or other appropriate means to those who have contributed significantly to research or concept development in accordance with such contributions. Principal contributors are listed first, and minor technical or professional contributions are acknowledged in notes or introductory statements. Authorship

order and expected contributions is determined early on (and revisited as necessary) in the process to avoid confusion.

f. STUDENT PAPERS AND RESEARCH. Unpublished items submitted for coursework, manuscripts, or professional presentations in any media that are substantially based on a student's course papers/assignments, projects, dissertations, or theses are used only with the student's permission and list the student as lead author.

g. DUPLICATE SUBMISSION. CRCs/CCRCs submit manuscripts for consideration to only one journal at a time. Manuscripts that are published in whole or in substantial part in another journal or published work are not submitted for secondary publication without acknowledgment and permission from the original publisher.

h. PROFESSIONAL REVIEW. CRCs/CCRCs who review material submitted for publication, research, or other scholarly purposes (1) respect the confidentiality and proprietary rights of those who submitted it; (2) avoid personal biases; (3) make publication decisions based on valid and defensible standards; (4) review materials and return a defensible decision to the editor(s) in a timely manner, and (5) review only materials that are within their scope of competency.

J.5. MANAGING AND MAINTAINING BOUNDARIES

a. BOUNDARY CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH. CRCs/CCRCs consider the risks and benefits of extending current research relationships beyond conventional parameters. In cases where boundaries are extended, CRCs/CCRCs take appropriate professional precautions, such as seeking informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and that neither exploitation nor harm has occurred. Such interactions are discussed and are initiated with appropriate consent of research participants. Where unintentional harm occurs to research participants, researchers must show evidence of an attempt to remedy such harm.

b. SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS. CRCs/CCRCs are prohibited from engaging in electronic, virtual, online, and/or in-person sexual or romantic interactions or relationships with current research participants.

c. HARASSMENT. CRCs/CCRCs do not condone or subject research participants to any form of harassment, including sexual harassment.