

PRIVACY POLICY

The Dutch National Survey on Research Integrity (NSRI)

Prof. L. Bouter, Dr. G. Gopalakrishna (July 2020)

Aims of the study are to:

- Provide solid empirical data on how often specific Questionable Research Practices (QRPs) and Responsible Research Practices (RRPs) occur in the four disciplinary fields (natural, social, biomedical sciences, and humanities)
- Provide insight into the potential underlying factors that may promote or hinder responsible conduct of research across each of the four disciplinary fields
- Co-create with research institutions and other stakeholders action plans that foster research integrity that are disciplinary field specific

Ethical considerations

We will process, manage and secure personal information with the utmost care. We work according to the [Dutch Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) 2018. We also fully comply with the requirements of the [Dutch Personal Data Protection Act](#). This study protocol has been certified by the Medical Ethics Committee (METc) of the VU University Medical Center as a study that does not fall under the scope of the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act (WMO) (ref no. 2020.286). The full study protocol is currently submitted for review and approval by the Ethics Committee of The School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg University.

Scope of this Privacy Policy

This privacy policy applies to all personal information we collect in this study. The NSRI is fully pseudonymized: no individual link or link to an institution can be traced back at any time. To ensure this, the NSRI is conducted by a trusted third party, Kantar Netherlands B.V., who will send all academic researchers fulfilling the study inclusion criteria an invitational email with a survey link directly in October 2020. Researchers can at this point decide to participate or decline participation.

Email addresses will be used only for sending out the invitational emails in which Kantar Netherlands B.V. will ensure survey links usable only once, not linked to email addresses and no IP addresses are ever collected or stored in an effort to protect participant identity. Only data on by academic rank, gender and disciplinary field (fields are categorized into four types: biomedicine, social sciences, physics/engineering and humanities) will be collected and analyzed. We do not collect any other personally identifiable information to responses made to our survey. This will effectively assure that it will be practically impossible to trace back personal responses to specific questions. The research team has entered into a [processor's agreement](#) with Kantar Netherlands B.V. to this effect.

Provision of de-identified data to third parties

The de-identified data (raw data after removal of email address) will not be provided to third parties unless:

- This is necessary for the purpose for which the data were obtained (i.e. submission of the de-identified dataset as part of publication policies).
- When our de-identified data is needed for research purposes in the future (i.e. a collaboration with another institution), data will only be available after a data transfer agreement is signed by the requesting party and the researchers.
- When such a request for the de-identified data is issued, data will only be shared if the main research team reaches consensus that the requester's use of the data for future research is strictly necessary.
- If any other institution or journal wishes to us to make our data available, this will only be done via a data-transfer agreement.

Data protection

We use security and safety procedures against theft, loss and abuse by third parties and ensure that only authorized persons have access to the database. Authorized persons are the members of the research team. The research team comprises the principal investigators (Prof. L.M. Bouter, Prof. J. M. Wicherts, Dr. G. Gopalakrishna, Dr. M.Cruyff and A/Prof Gerben ter Riet).

Data storage and location

We will store your data for a maximum of fifteen years on a European server. Data for scientific research is stored according to the legal timeframe of data storage.

Dissemination of results for research

We will analyze and publish the results of the study for research purposes. Because we do not collect data on faculty, institution or university, all analysis will only be stratified by disciplinary fields and academic ranks.

Questions

If you have any questions, please send an email to Gowri Gopalakrishna, department of epidemiology and biostatistics (g.gopalakrishna@vumc.nl). Your query will be dealt with as quickly as possible and

will remain confidential.

Withdrawing from the study

You can withdraw from the study at any point in time even after participation. Should you wish to do so, please send an email to Gowri Gopalakrishna, department of epidemiology and biostatistics, VUMC at g.gopalakrishna@vumc.nl.