



REGULATION OF THE BIOETHICS COMMISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

1. FUNCTIONS

The Bioethics Commission of the University of Barcelona (CBUB) has three main goals: (I) evaluating research projects and doctoral thesis that require bioethical review, (ii) reflecting and debating on the ethical problems arising from scientific research, and (iii) promoting training among researchers and doctoral students in the fields of bioethics and research integrity. Among its specific functions, the CBUB is in charge of:

- 1.1. Disseminating information on bioethical issues and promoting public debate on the implications that arise from new scientific or/and technological breakthroughs.
- 1.2. Assessing and issuing favorable opinion regarding the methodological, ethical, legal and social implications of research projects and doctoral thesis of managed by UB members'.
- 1.3. Acting as reference advisory committee for ethics when evaluating research projects developed by either public and private institutions provided there is a specific agreement.
- 1.4. Issuing a favorable opinion regarding documents submitted for publication, especially those drafted within the framework of a research project which ethical implications have been assessed by the Commission.
- 1.5. Promoting research integrity and good scientific practices.
- 1.6. Examining UB members' complaints regarding research integrity, good scientific practices or/and research ethics.
- 1.7. Addressing the UB Community by formal statement when results from specific research so require.
- 1.8. Providing training and reinforcing capacity-building in the field of bioethics and research integrity to researchers within or outside UB when so required.
- 1.9. Assisting other UB bodies on matters relating to the functions of the CBUB, when so required. For instance, collaborating with the animal experimentation ethics committee, the committee on biosafety, or the ones acting on data protection, social responsibility and others.



- 1.10. Also, in the case of the UB creating a biobank, the CBUB will act as an external advisory ethics committee under current regulations on biomedical research and human biological samples. The CBUB will then act under the provisions of that new regulatory framework.

2. COMPOSITION

- 2.1. The CBUB is composed of at least 10 members that need to be UB researchers with sound teaching experience in the fields of life, health social, legal or experimental sciences in order to ensure an interdisciplinary committee. Early stage researchers will also be considered.
- 2.2. Emeritus professors, retired researchers and reknown professionals relevant to the field shall also participate in the activities of the CBUB as advisors.
- 2.3. The Commission is chaired by the UB's Associate Rector of Research, who then appoints the Secretary among the CBUB's members and advisors prior hearing the CBUB.
- 2.4. The Bioethics and Law Observatory of the UB acts as technical advisory office of the CBUB.
- 2.5. The composition of the CBUB will be updated by thirds every four years.

3. GENERAL WORKING RULES

- 3.1. The Commission shall act when required by the nature of its functions and/or provided prior request from the UB's Research Commission or the Associate Rector for Research. The CBUB shall meet at least once every three months.
- 3.2. Decisions shall be taken by either the plenary Commission or by any of its subcommittees. Subcommittees cannot include less than two CBUB members and can only fulfill duties under prior formal delegation has been accorded. The plenary CBUB can decide to analyze any issue being discussed by a subcommittee regardless of prior delegation.
- 3.3. Valid decisions are taken by qualified majority of the members of the plenary Commission. At least a majority (half plus one) of the CBUB members need to be present in order to approve decisions submitted to vote.
- 3.4. The members of the Bioethics Commission must respect the confidentiality principle.



- 3.5. The CBUB can request advice from non-members provided they also respect the confidentiality principle.
- 3.6. The Commission may require researchers' additional information regarding their project whenever deemed necessary in order to issue an opinion. When asked to report on a specific issue, project, doctoral thesis or other piece intended for publication, the CBUB will do so in a formal written manner.
- 3.7 The members of the Bioethics Committee must recuse themselves from participating in the evaluation of those projects they have played a direct or indirect role in.