



## **CANADIAN CONSORTIUM ON NEURODEGENERATION IN AGING**

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**Version 1.0 May 4, 2015**

**Approved by the CCNA Research Executive Committee (February 19, 2015)**

#### **A- PREAMBLE**

Following are four principles that will be used to guide the conduct of researchers, trainees, and staff affiliated with the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) (hereafter referred to as "CCNA members"). While adherence to these principles is expected of all, they are considered particularly important for those in leadership positions.

#### **B- PRINCIPLES**

1. All CCNA members will adhere to the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (2010) and the *Canadian Council on Animal Care: Ethics of Animal Investigation* (1989). The CCNA Ethical, Legal and Social Issue (ELSI) Committee may be asked to assess compliance with these requirements and to provide an opinion (with recommendations) to the CCNA Research Executive Committee (REC);
2. All CCNA members will adhere to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors *Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals* (<http://www.icmje.org/>). The CCNA Publications and Data Access committee (a sub-committee of the CCNA REC) will oversee establishment of a time-limited "publication priority" list based on submissions from each CCNA Team, Platform, and cross-cutting Program. After confirmation by the REC, all CCNA members must respect this list. For example, if Team "A" has been granted priority in addressing an identified research question with the intent of preparing and submitting a manuscript for consideration of publication, another CCNA member or component leader cannot "scoop" them within the agreed-upon time period unless prioritization has been voluntarily given up;

3. The success of CCNA is contingent on developing effective partnerships with governmental and non-governmental agencies and individuals. All CCNA members will adhere to agreed-upon partnership requirements, which span from timely reporting of financial and other information to CCNA Central Administration to engaging in two-way communication with interested partners within the limitations imposed by adherence to the other principles;
4. CCNA is a collaborative, team-based, research enterprise built on the core values of collegiality and mutual respect. This is what gives its members the "CCNA collaborative advantage" (see page 7 of the CCNA grant application). The CCNA's third objective is to create a national network of researchers bound "into a synergistic research community that meets regularly, exchanges ideas, and cross-fertilizes projects" (page 5 of the CCNA grant application). The activities of CCNA Teams, Platforms, and cross-cutting Programs must be collectively developed and not solely represent the aspirations of the assigned leader. Appropriate standards of inclusiveness and collegiality, which are fundamental to CCNA, must be met at all times.

Failure to adhere to these principles will result in review by the REC, and could result in warnings, censure, or other consequences up to and including removal from Team, Platform, or cross-cutting Program leadership if the issue cannot be resolved. All parties involved in disputes will be accorded a full opportunity to explain their point of view and to offer supporting information during the review process. The REC, however, has a duty to uphold these principles and its final decision on these matters must prevail.