

Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists

Code of Ethics/Standards of Professional Conduct

Preamble:

Membership in the SCA is a privilege of physicians who are dedicated to the ethical provision of cardiovascular anesthesia and health care. The Society recognizes the Principles of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association as the basic guide to ethical conduct of its members.

SCA is committed to creating a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all members and staff and is dedicated to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, or religion. SCA does not tolerate harassment in any form, and encourages open and honest communication among all members, and representative agencies to create an atmosphere conducive to professional excellence and personal development.

As such, SCA members must commit to:

- Cultivating and promoting a harassment-free environment.
- Ensuring an environment of inclusivity.
- Behaving ethically, honestly, and compassionately.
- Respecting/acknowledging all intellectual and property rights, while giving due credit where appropriate.
- Demonstrating leadership. Setting an example, as a representative of a leading organization, for high standards of professionalism.
- Achieving the best possible outcome for each patient.
- Serving patients, their families, and the public.
- Promoting health care delivery by integrated teams of dedicated experts.
- Complying with all bylaws and regulations set by the SCA and Board of Directors (BOD).

Should a member be found to have violated these commitments, he/she/they may be expelled, suspended, or censured based on a good faith determination by the Board of Directors (BOD), or a committee or person authorized by the BOD to make such a determination, that the member has engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to SCA's purposes and interests. The BOD may give the member an opportunity to be heard, either in person or in

writing at its discretion, prior to such action becoming final. However, those found in an overt breach of these ethical principles during any point at the SCA Annual Meeting will be subject to immediate removal from said meeting.

Professional Misconduct Allegations

SCA maintains policies and procedures for the handling of various types of allegations of professional misconduct as they relate to SCA activities. They are:

- **Conflicts of Interest:** academic bias or financial/industry influence
- **Research Misconduct:** fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results
- **General Misconduct:** all other types of professional misconduct including but not limited to failure to adhere to SCA's Standards of Professional Conduct; loss/limitation of professional licensure, hospital privileges or professional certifications; termination of employment for professional misconduct; criminal convictions; harassment; discrimination; dishonesty; fraud; deceit or misrepresentation; or any other conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to SCA's purposes and interests.

Professional conduct complaints of any type must be directly related to an SCA activity.

SCA does not process complaints that allege grievances between members such as those often seen in expert witness testimonies or that did not occur and are not related to SCA activities. Professional conduct allegations may be brought to SCA only by members about SCA members.

Confidentiality: All complaints of professional misconduct are managed by the President and the BOD. Complaints remain strictly confidential until it is determined that the allegations are substantiated. Depending upon the type of alleged misconduct, the President or their designee will review the allegations, collect reports and statements, and determine if the complaint is substantiated. The President may then assign the matter to the Ethics Committee to review and to make recommendations on disposition of the complaint.

The BOD may gather additional information and the accused will be given the opportunity to respond to them directly in writing, by telecommunication (phone, video conference, etc.). The President will inform the accused in writing of the decision on the matter, as well as the accused's right to appeal the decision to the BOD. If the allegation of professional misconduct is substantiated and the acts are materially and seriously prejudicial to SCA's purposes and interests, the Society may take any action it deems appropriate, which may include but is not limited to:

- Retraction of offending material/publication
- Removal from meeting activity prior to investigation of the offense
- Removal of previous awards or recognitions
- Removal of Membership in the Society temporarily or permanently

- Exclusion from future participation in SCA events or activities