

EULAR Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) applies to all officers (acting, nominee, elect and past Executive Committee members, investigators of EULAR-funded projects) and its staff. The code is enforceable solely by EULAR.

The primary purpose of this Code of Ethics is to support EULAR's mission and maintain its reputation in the scientific and medical communities and with the general public as a credible, objective and unbiased force whose statements, activities and relationships are beyond reproach. It is the purpose of this code to provide guidelines which will ensure this reputation be maintained. EULAR has not attempted in this Code to set forth a position regarding all ethical issues which its officers and staff may face in their day-to-day professional activities.

1. Officers and staff should act in the best interests of EULAR in carrying out responsibilities in good faith, with care, honesty, and due diligence.
2. Officers and staff shall give individual allegiance to EULAR when making decisions affecting EULAR.
3. Officers and staff should avoid self-dealing where they have a personal or business interest beyond their interest as a representative of EULAR.
4. Officers and staff shall not use their position within EULAR for individual advantage or advantage of another person or entity to which they are related or obligated.
5. Officers and staff shall not engage in unauthorized activities, i.e. those activities that are not in accordance with EULAR's by-laws, policies, and other documents addressing their responsibilities.
6. Officers and staff shall maintain the confidences of EULAR.
7. Officers and staff shall discharge their responsibilities with fidelity and make decisions that are in the best interests of EULAR.
8. Officers and staff shall disclose any relationships that pose or could be construed to pose potential conflict of interest such as relationships which may affect or appear to affect EULAR activities and decisions.
9. Officers and staff should endeavour to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest in any action or activity related to EULAR.
10. Candidates for election into a EULAR Executive Committee position shall exercise special care when campaigning for office and avoid any action that may be considered as inappropriately influencing voting delegates at the General Assembly.

Misconduct and sanctions

Individuals may be disciplined for misconduct, including, but not limited to, a violation of EULAR's Code of Ethics, bylaws, or policies, any unauthorized use of EULAR's name, and any adverse action taken against him or her with respect to his or her license to practice. Any charges alleging professional misconduct shall be in

writing and directed to the EULAR Advisory Committee for a preliminary review. The Advisory Committee shall consist of the three immediate past presidents who are not members of the EULAR Steering Group.

If the Advisory Committee cannot find any misconduct, the Advisory Committee shall send a report to the President and the matter shall be closed. If after a preliminary review, the committee determines further investigation is warranted, the Advisory Committee shall inform the President accordingly. The President shall then nominate a special Judiciary Committee consisting of three representatives of EULAR member organisations to further investigate the matter. The Special Judiciary Committee shall issue a report to the Executive Committee proposing recommended action including, but not limited to, censure, probation, suspension, or expulsion. The Executive Committee will take a final decision by vote.

*Issued by the
EULAR Executive Committee*

*and ratified by the
EULAR General Assembly,
Berlin, June 2012*