Informed Consent Form

You are invited to participate in an online survey on Research Integrity and Research Fairness. The objective of this study is to provide evidence on the extent to which global health researchers adhere to principles of research fairness and research integrity. This research builds upon the BRIDGE guidelines for good epidemiological practice. This study is conducted by researchers from KIT Royal Tropical Institute (Netherlands) and KEM Hospital Research Centre (India) in collaboration with the University of the Free State (South Africa). It should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Why were you selected to participate in this study?

You were selected to join this study because your institute belongs to an international research network. For this survey we are inviting 30 individuals per sampled institute, across 60 institutes. Survey participants were sampled by two-stage cluster sampling. In the first sampling stage we randomly selected institutes from the above mentioned networks. In the second stage we compiled a list of all researchers working in the selected research institutes by referring to publicly available websites. We then randomly selected researchers from these lists. You were selected from this list and that is why we are inviting you to participate in our online survey.

What type of questions will we ask?

We will ask questions relating to your individual behaviour in the research you conducted in the past three years. There will be questions regarding responsible/questionable research practices and fair/unfair research practices. You will be asked to provide answers on a Likert scale indicating the frequency with which you engaged in these practices (never, very rarely, rarely, occasionally, frequently, very frequently, always). The following definitions apply:

- Questionable research practices: are defined in the field of research integrity as
 'misbehaviours' in the grey zone between fabrication, falsification, and
 plagiarism and responsible conduct of research that violate traditional values of
 the research enterprise and that may be detrimental to the research process.
 The term describes practices such as describing a hypothesis after finding
 significant results, selective publication of results, concealing of conflicts of
 interests etc.
- Unfair research practices: derive from the field of research fairness and refer to
 practices where there is unfair treatment of research partners in the planning,
 execution and dissemination of the research. Of particular concern in global
 health are practices that prevent local actors from shaping the research agenda
 in their country and curb their ability to reap scientific rewards for their
 contributions. These include bypassing local expertise and expert knowledge,
 avoiding local ethical institutions, failing to develop in-country capacity etc.

Participation, Benefits and Confidentiality

What are the benefits of participating this study?

The main benefit of participating in the survey is to be a part of an initiative that aims to understand and improve global health research practice. With this prevalence survey we aim to quantify the prevalence of wanted and un-wanted behaviour. With follow-up in-depth interviews we will investigate the root causes, and more specifically we will attempt to disentangle individual determinants (career progression), structural issues (related to research funding) and institutional issues (related to institutions norms and policies).

What are the risks of participating this study?

Some questions may make you feel uncomfortable because they may make you reflect on some practices that, with hindsight, you regret. There will be comment boxes available for you to provide context to those answers if needed. We will take those comments into account in our analyses. Also remember that your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the research or exit the survey any time without penalty.

How will you ensure the confidentiality of my responses?

Your survey answers will be sent to a link where data will be stored in a password protected electronic format. We will not collect direct identifiers such as your name, email address, or IP address. At the end of the survey we will ask a few indirect identifiers which would improve the quality of the statistical analyses we could perform (gender, discipline, years of experience, academic rank and position). You may also chose to skip these personal questions entirely. If you skip these questions, you data will be 100% anonymized. The data will be handled on KIT servers in line with GDPR regulations.

How can I get more information about this survey? Should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the survey team at gep@kit.nl.

By clicking "next", you confirm that you are aware of the purpose and procedure of this survey

Section A: Introduction

In order to better understand and contextualize the challenges of global health research, we would like to ask you one question first about your position in relation to global health research.

1. Which of the following best describes you?

Note: The terms Global North and Global South are not objective classifications based on geographic position, but instead subjective classifications based on socio-economic, political, and historic relations. You may not have a definitive answer based on your country of origin or life circumstances, thus select the answer you deem most appropriate.

To provide guidance, you can find two sources below which give an indication of how Global South and Global North may be classified. The first one is a link to the World Bank Income Categorizations (sometimes used in parallel to the Global North and Global South categorizations). The second is a generic map based on the historic Brandt Line

 $\underline{https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/the-world-by-income-and-region.html}\\$

\bigcup	Researcher from the Global North
\bigcirc	Researcher from the Global South
\bigcirc	Prefer not to disclose
\bigcirc	Other (please specify)

Section 1	B: Responsi	ble rese	earch pract	tices (Par	t 1/2)			
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Saction	C.	Personal	infor	mation
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In this section we would like to ask some personal questions. This information will NOT be shared with anyone outside the research team. Answers to these would help improve the quality of the statistical analyses we are planning. They are not compulsory and you may skip them all and simply press 'next' at the bottom of this page if you prefer not to disclose this information.

page if you prefer not to disclose this information.	
1. Which region of the world is your institute based in? (World Bank Classification)	
East Asia and Pacific	North America
Europe and Central Asia	O South Asia
Latin America and Caribbean	Sub-Saharan Africa
Middle East and North Africa	Prefer Not To Disclose
2. What is the commonly used name of your institu	te? (Not Compulsory)
Secondly, in order to take into account known confounders of following information would be useful:	research integrity and fairness in our analyses, the
3. What discipline of global health based describ	oes you:
Biostatistics/Epidemiology	O Political sciences/Health economics
☐ Biology/Medicine	Mathematics/Computer science
Sociology/Anthropology	Prefer not to disclose
Other (please specify)	
4. What is you gender?	
Male	
Female	
Prefer not to disclose	
Other (please specify)	

5. How many years of involvement in research do you have?
Early Career (< 3 years post-education)
Mid-career (3-10 years post-education)
Established (>10 years post-education)
Prefer not to disclose
6. What is your highest academic qualification or position?
Bachelor or Master degree
PhD degree
O Postdoc or Assistant Professor
Associate Professor or Full Professor
Prefer not to disclose
Other (please specify)
7. How best do you describe your current role?
Researcher
Research manager (I manage one or more research projects)
Leadership position (I have management responsibilities beyond/independently of individual research projects and I am responsible for the strategic development of the unit/department/institute that I manage)
Prefer not to disclose
Other (please specify)

Section D: Survey	y closure
	some key information interviews (qualitative research) to better adividual, institutional and structural determinants of research earch fairness.
1. Would you like	e to participate in a follow-up interview?
○ Yes	
0 103	

interview

Many thanks for participating in this survey! We are very grateful for your time and answers. We would really appreciate the opportunity to further engage with you on this important topic