



LIGO Laboratory / LIGO Scientific Collaboration

LIGO-M030196-00-Z

12/1/2003

**LIGO Scientific Collaboration
Statement on Scientific Integrity
-DRAFT-**

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Distribution of this document:
LIGO Science Collaboration

This is an internal working note
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LIGO Scientific Collaboration Statement on Scientific Integrity

Members of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration benefit from membership in a collaborative community, but with these benefits comes the responsibility to act in the best interest of this community. Member's actions reflect upon not only themselves and the Collaboration, but their institution(s), the field of experimental gravity, and the discipline of physics. Every member, therefore, has a duty to act in accordance with the highest ethical principles.

- The search for truth is preeminent among scientific goals. Any act that deliberately compromises this search, including fabrication or selective reporting of data with intent to mislead or deceive, is unacceptable.
- Honest errors and mistakes are an integral part of the scientific enterprise, so each member must strive to create a working environment where these can be dealt with appropriately.
 - Checking and correcting of results by all members is welcomed.
 - Potential mistakes may be brought forward by anyone without unfair reprisals.
 - Legitimate mistakes must be acknowledged and corrected when they are discovered.
 - A clear statement of how results are confirmed in general and how any particular result was checked will be kept.
 - Raw data will be retained for a reasonable period of time to allow for continued examination.
- All members deserve appropriate commendation for their efforts and contributions to results.
 - Authorship of papers should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the concept, design, execution, or interpretation of the research. All those who have made a similar contribution should be offered the opportunity to be listed as an author.
 - Plagiarism, theft of data, or theft of research results is never acceptable.
 - Proper acknowledgement of the work of others used in research must always be given.

Our scientific goals are best advanced when there is mutual trust between all members of the community and honest behavior throughout. Every member of the Collaboration should strive to create a working environment with colleagues, students, collaborators, and others where these conditions prevail.