

CODE OF ETHICS
of the Scientific Association
Gruppo Tossicologi Forensi Italiani (GTFI)

The Code of Ethics of the Scientific Association Gruppo Tossicologi Forensi Italiani (GTFI), hereinafter referred to as the Association, enunciates the fundamental values that must inspire the members of the Association, promotes recognition of and respect for the constituent purposes contained in its Statutes, and the assumption of the duties of loyalty and responsibility to the Association.

Members of the Association are united by the purposes of conducting research, doctrine and professional activity in the field of Forensic Toxicology, either as experts commissioned by institutions and as private individuals. The Code of Ethics commits all members of the Association to act in accordance with the principles on which the Association was founded and to assume behaviours appropriate to their research, academic and teaching responsibilities, and to their professionalism.

Some of the concepts below are inspired by the Code of Ethics of related international Scientific Societies: The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) and Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT).

PREAMBLE

The Association, as stated in its statutes, pursues the following purposes:

- Coordinate, promote and disseminate matters related to Forensic and/or Analytical Toxicology with forensic purposes;
- Promote and implement ongoing professional training and continuing education for the Members, in the field of toxicology, by means of educational programs, such as in the framework of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation program;
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health, Justice, or other Ministries, with the Regional Administrations and their Health Authorities, and with other public health bodies and institutions, with regards to the specific field of Forensic Toxicology;
- Produce and publish periodicals and other publications, also disseminate materials in digital form;
- Promote Conferences, Meetings, Seminars about national and local scientific studies and research, and the collaboration with other scientific, national and international organizations;
- Pursue the purpose of training and/or accrediting laboratories and analytical toxicology services (for forensic and medico-legal purposes), jointly with national or local institutions within the national health service framework.;
- Protect the ethical-professional, deontological, cultural and legal rights of its members, when pertaining to Forensic Toxicology (excluding union and political activities).

Members of the Association, as recipients of the Code of Ethics, are therefore required to conduct in accordance to the following ethical and professional principles:

ETHICS

Members of the Association are required to:

Act in accordance with the ethical and scientific principles inherent in the discipline of Forensic Toxicology;

Refrain from exercising conduct that may be detrimental to the image and prestige of the Association or contrary to the purposes of the Association;

Imprint professional relationships with other members of the Association or with members of similar

associations or scientific disciplines to principles of loyalty and mutual respect;

Not making public statements of a personal nature as representative of the positions of the Association;

Not to use public events of a congressional, educational or popular nature to disseminate personal statements that cause harm to the image of the Association or any of its members;

Refrain from any behaviour that is discriminatory and/or that may harm the honour and reputation of the members of the Association or similar scientific associations;

In the case of educational assignments, carry out the related activities with devotion and intellectual honesty, ensuring training in accordance with Toxicological-Forensic culture and ethics, and disseminating up-to-date technical scientific knowledge shared by the scientific community.

PROFESSIONALISM

Members of the Association are required to:

Refrain from misrepresenting professional qualifications, such as education, training, experience, certifications, areas of expertise and professional affiliations or activities;

Conduct professional activities with honesty, integrity and objectivity;

Present accurate and as complete data as possible in expert advice/expert opinions, in testimony, in publications and presentations at conferences, seminars, and in teaching and dissemination in general;

Provide expert advice and opinions within the limits of individual competence and the principles and generally accepted scientific principles of the discipline and of the international community, and referring to relevant national and international guidelines;

Refuse to accept professional assignments related to cases where may arise conflicts of interest on a personal or institutional level;

Render testimony in judicial settings in a truthful manner without bias;

Maintain independent, impartial and objective behaviour in the scientific and technical investigations carried out;

Conduct analytical activities in a comprehensive manner, and produce the relevant considerations and conclusions relying exclusively on results obtained with accepted by the scientific community

and validated techniques, procedures and methods, clearly describing any analytical and interpretative limitations.

Report subjective opinions and interpretations in a manner clearly distinguishable from objective data and considerations;

Pursue continuous technical and professional upgrading and apply the most updated technology and knowledge possible;

Give the utmost care to the handling and treatment of any samples or items of potential evidentiary value to avoid tampering, adulteration, loss or unnecessary consumption, and observing and maintaining the relevant chain of custody, to maintain their evidentiary value;

Producing and retaining complete, clear and accurate records of all examinations and test conducted, to allow meaningful review by independent parties competent in the field.

Members of the Association, as recipients of the Code of Ethics, are therefore required to observe its ethical and professional rules and must be aware that conduct contrary to the provisions of this Code, appropriately screened and verified by the Board of the Association, may cause censure or lead to the application of disciplinary sanctions up to and including the request for permanent resignation from the Association.