GUIDELINES FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS
FOR THE USE OF DRUGS IN RESEARCH
JUNE 22, 1971

Approved December 3, 1971 by the Council of Representatives,
American Psychological Association

General Principle: A psychologist or psychology student who performs research involving the use of drugs shall have adequate knowledge and experience of each drug's action or shall work in collaboration with or under the supervision of a qualified researcher. Any psychologist or psychology student doing research with drugs must comply with the procedural guidelines below. Any supervisor or collaborator has the responsibility to see that the individual he supervises or collaborates with complies with the procedural guidelines.

I. Definition of a Qualified Researcher:
1. A Ph.D. based in part upon a dissertation which is experimental in nature, and in part upon training in psychology, pharmacology, physiology and related areas, and conferred by a graduate school of recognized standing (as listed by the U.S. Office of Education as having been accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting organization).

OR

2. Demonstrated competence defined by published research (involving the use of drugs) in scientific journals, or through continuing education, or through equivalent experience that ensures that the researcher has adequate knowledge of the drugs and their actions and of experimental design.

II. Definition of Drug:
In these guidelines, the term "drug" includes: (1) all substances as defined by the term "drug" in the "Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act," 21 USC 321 and (2) all substances, schedules I through V, as listed in the "Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970," 21 USC 812 (PL 91-513, Sec. 202) in its present form or as amended. (Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; 21 USC 321, Sec. 201 [g], "Appendix A").

III. Procedural Guidelines:
1. All drugs must be legally obtained and used under conditions specified by federal and state laws. Information concerning these laws should be obtained from federal or state authorities.
2. Proper precautions must be taken so that drugs and drug paraphernalia that are potentially harmful are available only to authorized personnel. All such drugs used in experiments should be kept in locked cabinets, and under any additional security prescribed by law.
3. All individuals using or supervising the use of drugs in research must be familiar with PL 91-513, the "Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970," and its implementing regulations as well as all amendments to the Act and other drug laws relevant to their research.
4. The use of drugs must be scientifically justified.
5. All individuals using or supervising the use of drugs in research must familiarize themselves with available information concerning the mode of action, toxicity, and methods of administration of the drugs they are using.
6. In any experiment involving animals, the welfare of the animal should be considered as specified in APA's "Precautions and Standards for the Care and Use of Animals."
7. Research involving human subjects is governed by additional guidelines as set forth in the chapter of "Principles Relating to Research with Drugs" in the report of the ad hoc Committee on Ethical Standards in Psychological Research. (This guideline will go into effect at the time the APA Council of Representatives adopts the proposed "Ethical Standards for Psychological Research.""
8. The present guidelines should be brought to the attention of all individuals conducting research with drugs.
9. The present guidelines should be conspicuously posted in every laboratory in which psychologists use drugs.

Ad hoc Committee on Guidelines for the Use of Drugs
and Other Chemical Agents in Research
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