

**Principal Investigator:**

1. Each research proposal should identify a principal investigator.
2. Proposals within a department or within the institutions of Charutar Arogya Mandal should have a single identified principal investigator. For projects in which research is conducted within Charutar Arogya Mandal in collaboration with external institutions then a principal investigator needs to be identified from the various investigators. For projects conducted at other places wherein a researcher is involved in peripheral capacity then there is no requirement to be a principal investigator. Faculty can be part of data safety monitoring boards of projects which have no connection with Charutar Arogya Mandal. In both these cases Research Group needs to be informed.
3. Principal investigators for any research project should be experienced in research. Criteria for being experienced in research will be as follows
  1. Been an investigator with two original research papers published in a PubMed indexed journal with an impact factor (Thompson Reuter) of more than one. OR
  2. Been an investigator with five original papers published in five PubMed indexed or Embase Indexed journals.
4. In case Faculty does not fulfill any of the above criteria then they can still be a Primary Investigator, if the research team has an investigator who fulfills the above criteria.
5. Alternatively the Faculty can choose a Mentor for the research team who fulfills the PI criteria. The Mentor is not required to be on the research team and is neither required to be an author on the study. The responsibilities of the Mentor include guiding the research team through the conduct and publication of research. A Mentor may not guide more than two teams at any point of time. A researcher (PI) may not do more than five projects with a Mentor. It is expected that by that time the researcher would have had published and developed research capabilities.
6. Postgraduate students and Undergraduate students cannot be Principal Investigators as it is observed that they usually do not have research capabilities to develop and complete a research project. If however they do fulfill the PI requirements they can be a PI. However the research team of the project should have a faculty member who fulfills PI requirements and is able to complete the project (read publication) if the student completes his term.
7. It is expected that the various members of the research team will remain engaged till the completion of the project. The PI is responsible for ensuring that the research is conducted as per protocol and is submitted for publication. A single research project with a PI can have

multiple publications if the data that had been collated, covers many areas that cannot be summarized in a single publication. The sequence of investigators on the research project need not be the same on the publication. Additionally all the investigators on the project may not be on the paper. It is understood that when the project started there may have been commitments made but as time passed they may not have been honored due to various valid reasons. There are well defined criteria for authorship (as per ICJME) which are to be followed. Care should be taken to prevent exclusion on authorship by creating circumstances so that a person who has contributed to the research is not given opportunities to write the paper. It is encouraged to have more people on the research and author team while ensuring that they fulfill the criteria of authorship. This will increase creation of teams and build capacity in the long term. In large projects the PI may not be an author on some of the papers that are published from the project.

8. There are no firm criteria which define the sequence of authorship on a paper. In the case of prolific researchers they may stop being the first author after the first 50 or 100 papers. This is usually the time they become Professors or Head of Departments. In our scenario the Principal Investigator is responsible for deciding the author sequence. Disputes related to authorship are cumbersome and at times inconclusive. Hence the final responsibility is vested with the Principal Investigator. Abstracts are submitted to various conferences with a sequenced author list. The same may not be followed while submitting the paper as it is emphasized that the abstract requires lesser intellectual input than a full paper. Again here the Principal Investigator is vested with the final authority.
9. The Research Group will seek explanations from PIs for projects which are not on track or have not been published.
10. The PI Policy applies to all projects that are submitted to the HREC across all institutions. It applies to undergraduate, postgraduate as well as faculty proposals. They do not apply to clinical trials funded by Pharmaceutical Companies wherein the protocol has not been developed in house, as these usually involve only collecting data from patients and submitting to the central registry.
11. There is no cap on the proposals that a PI can do as the scope of the proposals vary from the complexity of the proposal to the duration of the proposal. The investigators in a research team may have varying capabilities and putting a number restriction will reduce the capabilities of the institution to do research and will also slow down capacity building. Since India conducts only 1.59% of the research globally in spite of having 18% of the world's population (mainly

underserved) conducting relevant and contextual research is a responsibility that we have towards the community at large.

12. The research group will identify all faculties from within the institute who can be PIs.
13. It will circulate this list and request PIs to be mentors. The Mentor list will be circulated subsequently.