

ETHICS CHARTER

The Cancer Cooperative Groups (*Groupes Coopérateurs en Oncologie* – GCO) are not-for-profit research organizations (regulated by the French law of 1901) committed to respect principles relating to:

- Statutory operating procedures and not-for-profit management
- Academic communication of all research project results
- Financial transparency

I STATUTORY OPERATING PROCEDURES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT MANAGEMENT

Statutory operating procedures

Member groups of the GCO network pledge to ensure the following in their statutes, with the possibility of supplementing them with internal rules of procedure or another document:

- creation of a collegiate body
- creation of a scientific council charged with steering the association's medical research projects
- contribution and participation of their members in the design and implementation of research protocols

The GCO pledge to implement procedures that guarantee the independence of the scientific council members, transparency, and management of conflicts of interest.

The charter for collaborations with industry established by the GCO in 2008 formalized the industry's acceptance of essential cooperative group principles, established with the aim of ensuring both their independence and industry confidence.

Not-for-profit management

The GCO pledge to respect the following principles:

- No executive operations will be paid
- No profits of any form will be directly or indirectly distributed
- No group members will receive any assets

The physicians of the GCO are not paid, they work as volunteers within the research association.

II EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

The groups commit to using management methods designed to optimize their use of funding accorded to them for research. In this context, they will:

- Implement procedures and checks ensuring appropriate and effective management of their operational research structure.
- Be as objective as possible in their choice of service providers and suppliers.

III ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION OF ALL RESULTS

The member groups of the GCO network commit to the goal of achieving progress in medical research by conducting research projects.

All results from these research projects, even if negative, must be published and should be brought to the attention of the scientific community, institutions, and public. The groups are charged with communicating their activities (on the internet or via annual public report) in a way that is both academic and transparent, rendered as widely and easily accessible as possible.

IV FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

The member groups of the GCO network pledge to:

- Produce annual accounts and summary documents
- Ensure these annual accounts are validated by an auditor (for amounts over a certain limit)

V APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER

By signing this charter and adhering to the GCO network, the member groups pledge their commitment to respect all conditions stipulated herein.