

## Research Scholar's Oath\*

Carl Taswell†

### Commentary

As a not-for-profit organization founded in 2007 and operating for the benefit of the general public, Brain Health Alliance (BHA) provides education and conducts research in support of maintaining and improving brain health and fitness, preventing and curing brain illness and disorders. BHA has always maintained a non-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination against participants in BHA education and research activities on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, citizenship or country of residence. BHA welcomes the cooperation, collaboration, and contributions of research scholars of all ages, gender identities, ethnicities, creeds and citizenries regardless of where they reside — as long as they commit to endorsing, upholding, and defending the research scholar's oath to truth, honesty, and integrity. For participation in all activities, BHA requires that research scholars adhere to those codes of conduct and principles of practice which encourage and promote truth in science [1] and integrity in research [2], while also discouraging and prohibiting idea-laundering plagiarism by authors and idea-bleaching censorship by editors [2].

BHA began its Virtual Institute (BHAVI) programs in 2014 with the BHAVI 2014 Program. Every year since then, all student participants in the annual BHAVI programs have been required to sign their commitment to this research scholar's oath:

"I will act at all times with honor and integrity in the pursuit of knowledge in education and the discovery of truth in research that benefits humankind and all life on our planet Earth."

This statement has been signed by students in the BHAVI program code-of-conduct agreements for the past nine years. Because interplanetary and intergalactic exploration has become not just a possibility but a reality, this research scholar's oath can be updated with an appropriate additional phrase as:

"I will act at all times with honor and integrity in the pursuit of knowledge in education and the discovery of truth in research that benefits humankind and all life on our planet Earth and throughout our Universe."

For submissions and contributions to the Brainiacs Journal as the scholarly communications journal for BHAVI, BHA will require all parties when serving in the roles of author, reviewer, editor, or publisher to sign

their commitment to the research scholar's oath published in this commentary. BHA, BHAVI, and the Brainiacs Journal editors invite readers of this commentary to consider other discussions of research scholar's oaths available in the published literature [3]–[6].

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Contact: [CTaswell at Brain Health Alliance](mailto:CTaswell@BrainHealthAlliance.org)

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† Author affiliated with Brain Health Alliance Virtual Institute, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694 USA; C. Taswell also with University of California San Diego School of Engineering; correspondence to [CTaswell at Brain Health Alliance](mailto:CTaswell@BrainHealthAlliance.org).