Appendix 1 – Ethical considerations

A1.1 Ethical aspects directly related to the work done in the thesis

Some aspects that can be included (non-exclusive list)

* What data did you work with? Human data, animal models (vertebrae, mammals, ...) cell/tissue cultures/genetically modified organisms?
* When relevant: was the study approved by an ethical committee, did patients/volunteers provide informed consent about the use of the data?
* If person- or animal related data was used without any ethical committee approval or informed consent, motivate why you think this was not needed
* Was there any alternative for the data you work with (available data, re-use data, ways to avoid/limit the number of tests on animals, humans, …)?
* Any aspects of sex/gender equality/inclusiveness to be considered? A study may be biased when only male/female animals or humans are included (unless of course addressing a sex-specific disease); results from a study using data from white Caucasians may not necessarily be applicable to other populations.

A1.2. Reflection about the potential (future) impact of study results

Some aspects that can be included (non-exclusive list)

* Think broadly here; most often, a thesis only covers a fraction of the research that the research group has in mind. Don’t just focus on what was included in the thesis, but about the longer-term future impact that the work may have
* What may be the expected socio-economic impact of the work?
* In what way can results from the thesis change diagnosis/treatment/…
* Will the technology be available/affordable to everybody (developing countries)?
* Is there any risk/potential harm involved ?
* What kind of data would have to be collected to apply the new method/technique/… and are there any concern about privacy?
* Is there a risk for dual use of your work (e.g. for military purposes)?
* Does your research have the potential for misuse of research results?
* Aspects of sex/gender equality/inclusiveness/populations/…

A1.3. Scientific integrity

Some aspects that can be included (non-exclusive list)

* Briefly explain how you dealt with information retrieved from literature, citations, use of figures, references, …
* When applying a protocol, did you develop the protocol or was it provided to you?
* Did you report all data/results obtained or only results of successful experiments/simulations? On what grounds were data omitted?
* …