

RC Digest

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

Overview

The aims of a responsible conduct of research (RCR) program are to encourage integrity in the pursuit of scientific investigation and practice among of scientists, scholars, and professionals.

Educating such individuals about the underlying principles of responsible conduct of research, or research ethics, will assist in discouraging research misconduct and questionable research practices. This educational effort crosses all disciplines and lines of investigation – biomedical and physical sciences, the humanities, and the social and behavioral sciences.

Nine core areas have been determined by the Public Health Service to be significant in conducting responsible research and ensuring integrity of research. These include, but are not limited to:

Data Management: Accepted practices for recording, retaining, and analyzing research data; data ownership and access; intellectual property.

Mentor/Trainee Relationships: Responsibilities of students, advisors, post-doctoral fellows and mentors.

Publication Practices & Responsible Authorship: Responsible authorship and citation and copyright.

Peer Review: Peer review in determining merit for research funding and publication.

Collaborative Science: Issues that arise from collaborations.

Human Subjects: Issues important in conducting research involving human subjects.

Research Involving Animals: Issues important to conducting research involving animals.

Research Misconduct: Definitions, regulations, policies and guidelines that govern research misconduct.

Conflict of Interest and Commitment: Definition of conflicts of interest and how to handle conflicts of interest.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training

The University uses the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) web-based courses to provide a training platform for faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduate students who have an interest or focus in the above content areas. Note though, that these RCR courses do not substitute for the training required for use of human subjects or lab animal welfare. Contact the Human and Animal Research Protections Office (HARPO) with any questions.

For more information, www.umbc.edu/HARPO/compliance_tips.htm

Contact:

Timothy Sparklin
Human and Animal Research Protections Office
bwtech@UMBC
5523 Research Park Drive, Suite 310
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

410-455-2737 – phone
410-455-3868 – fax
HARPO@umbc.edu