

Responsible Conduct of Research

Plan for Ensuring Training of All Project Personnel including Post-Doctoral Researchers and Student Research Assistants

Background

Responsible conduct of research is defined as "**the practice of scientific investigation with integrity.**" It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research.

Ethical and responsible conduct of research is critical for excellence, as well as public trust, in science and engineering. Consequently, education in the responsible and ethical conduct of research is considered essential in the preparation of future scientists and engineers.

The [America COMPETES](#) (Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science) Act of 2007 focuses public attention on the importance of the national research community's enduring commitment and broader efforts to provide RCR (Responsible Conduct of Research) training as an integral part of the preparation and long term professional development of current and future generations of scientists and engineers. As a result, federal funding agencies are requiring educational institutions to develop training plans to ensure that all post-doctoral, undergraduate, and graduate students engaged in funded research activities receive Responsible Conduct of Research training.

NSF Notice on RCR Training Requirement

In responding to this requirement, the NSF published a revision to its *NSF Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide* requiring that beginning January 4, 2010, institutions must certify that, at the time of proposal submission, the institution has a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who are supported by NSF.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Notice on RCR

On Nov 24th, 2009, NIH updated its policy for instruction of trainees in the responsible conduct of research. The new updated policy states: "NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, and dissertation research grant must receive instruction in responsible conduct of research. This policy will take effect with all new and renewal applications submitted on or after January 25, 2010, and for all continuation (Type 5) applications with deadlines on or after January 1, 2011. This Notice applies to the following programs: D43, D71, F05, F30, F31, F32, F33, F34, F37, F38, K01, K02, K05, K07, K08, K12, K18, K22, K23, K24, K25, K26, K30, K99/R00, KL1, KL2, R25, R36, T15, T32, T34, T35, T36, T37,