



Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training Policy

September 2014

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) sponsors an annual program in the **Responsible Conduct of Research** to provide formal training in the various subject areas connected to issues of Research Integrity. All first year postdoctoral researchers and graduate students, including appointees to NIH funded National Research Service Award Institutional Training programs (e.g., T, R25) and Career Awards (e.g., F, K), and/or NSF-funded awards are required to complete the online course curriculum and to attend a minimum of four face-to-face sessions for a total of eight classroom hours. Research trainees are placed into small working groups and are required to respond to various assignments electronically in addition to coming together for the face-to-face discussions and processing exercises with faculty facilitators. The sessions are held monthly during the fall term and will be repeated on an annual basis with all new appointees being required to participate. Since most new appointments to training grants commence work during July or August, this allows new appointees to be exposed to these important issues early in their training experience.

The goals of this course are to:

1. heighten the awareness of trainees to ethical considerations relevant to the conduct of research;
2. inform trainees of federal, state, and institutional policies, regulations and procedures applicable to the ethical conduct of research; and
3. provide trainees with the opportunity to discuss, in a relatively informal setting, with senior faculty and among their peers, the implications of these policies and procedures for their own behavior in a research environment.

The small group workshop sessions are composed of approximately fifteen to twenty trainees. There is a course director, coordinator, and a committee of faculty and institutional advisors to lend support. Each year, 20-30 different faculty members/mentors from a diverse range of departments serve as small group facilitators. The course work is based on eleven different topics (presented in nine modules):

1. Research Misconduct (with Whistleblowing and Dispute Resolution)
2. Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing, and Ownership (including Enhancing Reproducibility) and Safe Laboratory Practices
3. Animal Welfare
4. Use of Human Subjects
5. Conflicts of Interest and Commitment
6. Authorship and Responsible Publication Practices
7. Peer Review

8. Collaboration and Mentoring
9. The Scientist and Social Responsibility and Export Control

Each subject will be highlighted by case studies and the Office of Research Integrity's interactive movie, "The Lab: Avoiding Research Misconduct" will be showcased at the course orientation.

It is felt that training toward responsible conduct of research is more effective as an ongoing activity integrated into the trainees' regular research activities. We, therefore, encourage the faculty mentors to continue to discuss and emphasize these issues in their daily contact with the trainee in their laboratories. The course director will discuss these issues with the faculty mentors on a regular basis to provide heightened awareness and sensitivity to these issues and assure that they continue to be discussed with the trainees. The Course Director also presents on RCR topics to individual labs and departments upon request. A faculty orientation is held prior to the start of the course and RCR-related educational seminars are offered throughout the year and open to the entire MSK research community (e.g., Intellectual Property Management, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Research, Publishing and Authorship Guidelines, Animal Welfare, RCR for Research Administrators, etc.).

MSK employees can visit the internal RCR course website for more information:

<http://onemsk/rtm/Pages/roc/ROC-RCR.aspx>