

Sample USDA NIFA RCR Training Plan: Case Discussion Series

Project title:

Start date:

End date:

PI:

Additional members of research team:

Learning objectives: raise awareness, convey norms and expectations, develop skills, and provide resources for navigating the ethical issues that can arise when proposing, performing, reporting, and evaluating research

RCR Educational Activities

Stage 1:

The research team will engage in a series of X discussions, each focusing on cases (real world and fictional) selected to illustrate key issues in the responsible conduct of research. These sessions will each last 45 minutes, and will focus on the following topics:

1. Responsible authorship and publication
2. Plagiarism and research misconduct
3. Data and research integration
4. Policies for handling and reporting misconduct
5. conflict of interest – personal, professional, and financial – and conflict of commitment, in allocating time, effort, or other research resources
6. policies regarding human subjects, live vertebrate animal subjects in research, and safe laboratory practices
7. mentor/mentee responsibilities and relationships
8. safe research environments (e.g., those that promote inclusion and are free of sexual, racial, ethnic, disability and other forms of discriminatory harassment)
9. collaborative research, including collaborations with industry and investigators and institutions in other countries
10. peer review, including the responsibility for maintaining confidentiality and security in peer review
11. data acquisition and analysis; laboratory tools (e.g., tools for analyzing data and creating or working with digital images); recordkeeping practices, including methods such as electronic laboratory notebooks
12. secure and ethical data use; data confidentiality, management, sharing, and ownership
13. the scientist as a responsible member of society, contemporary ethical issues in biomedical research, and the environmental and societal impacts of scientific research

We will meet for discussion once a month and expect to be finished with this stage by the end of the first year.

Stage 2:

The PI and senior personnel will try to identify and address ethical issues as they arise in our work, and trainees will be encouraged to ask questions and raise concerns.

This stage will continue for the duration of the project.