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Creating a Plan for RCR Education for your NIH Fellowship or Career Development Award

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NIH Peer Review Criteria at a Glance

for Parent Announcements: Fellowship (F30, F31, F32, F33), Career Development (K01, K02, K07, K08, K23, K24, K25, K99), and Training Grants (T32)

Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research.

For applications submitted for due dates ON OR AFTER January 25, 2010. Reviewers will evaluate plans for instruction in responsible conduct of research as well as the past record of instruction in responsible conduct of research, where applicable. Reviewers will specifically address the five Instructional Components (Format, Subject Matter, Faculty Participation, Duration, and Frequency of instruction), as detailed in NOT-OD-10-019). The review of this consideration will be guided by the principles set forth in NOT-OD-10-019. Plans and past record will be rated as ACCEPTABLE or UNACCEPTABLE.

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/Review_Criteria_at_a_glance.pdf

NIH Update on RCR Instruction (2009)

- RCR is an essential part of research training
- Appropriate instruction in RCR should be provided throughout training
- RCR instruction an essential part of grant proposals; new review criteria:

  Format, Subject Matter, Faculty Participation, Duration, and Frequency of instruction

- Faculty encouraged to contribute to formal and informal instruction
- Substantive contact time (8+ hours) expected
- Documented and monitored by program

NIH's Recommended Topics in RCR (2009)

- Conflict of interest
- Policies on research with humans and animals and safe laboratory practices
- Mentor/trainee responsibilities and relationships
- Peer review
- Data acquisition, management, sharing and ownership
- Collaborative research, including with industry
- Responsible authorship and publication
- Research misconduct and policies for handling it
- The scientist as a member of society, contemporary ethical issues in research, and environmental and societal impacts of research

Which areas are important to YOUR work?

- Plan RCR education that is meaningful to you and your future as an academic researcher in your field.

- Human and animal protections and related policy are a subset of the recommended subject areas BUT the specific training requirements for the IRB and IACUC are separate and do not "count" toward RCR education requirements.

- Build a program that is appropriate to YOUR career stage; You will be expected to have done SOMETHING already.

- Over the course of your award demonstrate increasing leadership related to research integrity and in your discipline.

Your plan MUST address the five (5) aspects laid out under "Instructional Components":

- Format(s)
  - Substantial face-to-face discussions preferred
  - Online instruction acceptable but not adequate alone
- Subject matter
  - NIH's core areas build on ORI's
  - Professional ethics, human protection, animal welfare not enough
- Faculty participation
  - Mentors and program faculty must be involved
  - Outsourced courses acceptable only as one component
- Duration
  - Minimum of 8 contact hours
- Frequency of instruction
  - Not a one-time event, but continuous education

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-10-019.html

NIH's 2009 Update was specifically aimed at changing "what we have always done" to promote education that is more meaningful for trainee and their mentors.

Personalize your plan as much as possible, tailoring it to your program, area of research, and specific interests.

Do NOT use someone else's "successful" plan without revisions that make it reflect your field, your work, your mentors, and your goals.

Do NOT use a University or Department template without revisions that make it reflect your field, your work, your mentors, and your goals.

RCR instruction at VUMC :

- BRET RCR Orientation (very basic) in August and RCR Workshop (basic) in May provide introductory-level sessions (Lecture and case discussions) designed for new doctoral students. The sessions are open to post-docs and K-award holders with small registration fee but may be too basic and lab oriented for many.

- MSCI course "Research Ethics and Scientific Integrity" (1 credit hour, tuition fee) in May provides a comprehensive mid-level overview of RCR for post-doctoral clinical researchers with assigned readings and final exam.

- CITI RCR course: online RCR modules available 24/7 to VUMC faculty, staff, and trainees through the (www.citi.org) or the VUMC IRB's "training" webpage. Satisfactory as one introductory component; NOT acceptable by itself.

- Other ad hoc RCR-related events posted through STARBRITE, typically 1 hour, various topic; register your attendance with a code number after session
https://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/starbrite/education/schedule.html

The VICTR Ethics Core provides consultation on RCR instruction plans – just call or write (preferably *before* your crunch time). Well before you start planning your application, we can help you build an educational history to use in your application.

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