

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR) PLAN

Introduction

The Federal Government definition of research misconduct is concerned with the acts of Fabrication, Falsification and Plagiarism in reviewing, proposing, performing and reporting research results. Fabrication means making up and reporting research data and results. Falsification implies manipulating research materials, equipments, processes or changing data and/or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the record of research. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion

On January 4th, 2010, a new Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirement became effective as a result of NSF's implementation of Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-1). This section of the Act requires that "each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project". For more complete information see <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-19930.htm> from which the above was taken.

CCNY Plan for Responsible Conduct of Research Training

All students (graduate and undergraduate) and postdoctoral researchers who are supported by sponsored projects, regardless of sponsor, must receive and participate in RCR training. Additionally, individuals involved in studies of human or animal subjects are also required to complete specific training for certification in these areas as prescribed by federal regulatory requirements and CCNY policies for the Protection of Human Research Subjects, and policies for Animal Care and Use, respectively, before they can participate in the research. For detailed information visit <http://www.cny.cuny.edu/irb/> and <http://www.cny.cuny.edu/iacuc>

The RCR training is available as follows:

A. On-line Modules.

All trainees must complete one of the RCR courses appropriate to their discipline through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). The courses may be accessed through the CUNY Research website: <http://cuny.edu/research/research-conduct.html>. The available courses are

- RCR in Biomedical research
- RCR in Social and Behavioral Science research
- RCR in Physical Science research
- RCR in Humanities research
- RCR in Engineering research

Each trainee must have completed the most appropriate on-line training module within six (6) weeks of being supported by, or performing research on a sponsored project. A certificate of completion should be printed and a copy must be provided to the Principal Investigator (PI)/ Project Director (PD).

B. RCR Workshops – to be completed within twelve (12) months of the initial on-line training.

All postdoctoral researchers working at CCNY must attend an RCR training workshop designed for postdoctoral researchers. The CUNY postdoc office website provides information for the workshop schedule as well as access to previous presentations <http://cuny.edu/research/postdoctoral-developmentprogram.html>. Graduate and undergraduate students can attend the workshops. The next RCR workshop will be held on May 21, 2010, 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon.

Local RCR training will be provided on CCNY campus. The training will be organized by the campus Research Integrity Officer (RIO). Currently, the RIO at CCNY is Dean Mumtaz K. Kassir.

C. Individual Training by Principal Investigator (PI)/Project Director (PD).

All student and postdoctoral researchers on sponsored projects are required to have continuing education in RCR topics specific to their research setting. Such training will be overseen by the PI/PD and will consist of interactive discussions during group meetings and/or one-on-one discussions on the topic between the PI/PD and the trainee. The PI/PD will maintain a record of training sessions provided to each student or postdoctoral researcher. The records may be used for proof of training if requested by the Office of Research Administration (ORA). CCNY Principal Investigators/Project Directors with sponsored research programs are responsible for certifying that students and postdoctoral fellows supported by their awards have completed the appropriate RCR training. PI/PDs may want to refresh their own RCR knowledge by taking the appropriate on-line RCR module.

Summary

In sum, all undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers who are performing research on a sponsored project must have completed the most appropriate on-line RCR training module within six (6) weeks of initiating research on the project. In addition, within the next twelve (12) months they must attend an RCR workshop. Finally, they will be exposed to issues related to the responsible conduct of research through one-on-one interactions with their PI/PD and through group discussions throughout the course of the research project.

APPENDIX – RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH TRACKING FORM

All undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers who are performing research on a sponsored project must have completed the most appropriate on-line RCR training module within six (6) weeks of initiating research on the project. In addition, within the next twelve (12) months they must attend an RCR workshop. Finally, they will be exposed to issues related to the responsible conduct of research through one-on-one interactions with their PI/PD and through group discussions throughout the course of the research project. Please use this form to track the progress of your researchers and ensure that all requirements are met.

*A copy of the completed CITI training certificate for each employee **must** be submitted to the Office of Research Administration. Additionally, this form is subject to review at any time to ensure compliance.

PI/PD Name: _____

Research Foundation Award Number: _____

Name	Student Status (undergraduate, graduate, postdoc, etc.)	Online Training* (please enter date of completion)	RCR Workshop (Please enter date/s of attendance)	Other (One-One interactions, group discussions, etc) Please list date and topic A separate form may be attached with a list of trainings and attendees
