Responsible Conduct of Research
Training:
Introduction

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What is RCR?

• NIH Definition:
  The practice of scientific investigation with integrity, which involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research.

• RCR is important at all stages of research including planning, conducting, reporting, and review
What is RCR?

- Consists of shared ethical values of the research community:
  - Honesty
    - Conveying information truthfully and honoring commitments
  - Accuracy
    - Reporting findings precisely and taking care to avoid errors
  - Efficiency
    - Using resources wisely and avoiding waste
  - Objectivity
    - Letting the facts speak for themselves and avoiding improper bias
Why RCR?

- Integrity in research is an essential component of the research enterprise
- Ethical research is the responsibility of the entire research team. It is a shared responsibility between the institution and the research team
- It is a requirement:
  - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
  - National Science Foundation (NSF)
- It is a core component of the new UNLV Graduate Research Certificate Program
RCR Training at UNLV

- Two required components
  - Eight hours of face to face training
  - CITI online training

- Three approved courses at UNLV
  - EAB 704, PSY 756 and BIO 701. These cover all of the same topics but delve deeper into case studies and discussion

- Mentoring in the research environment (informal)
- http://www.unlv.edu/research/responsible-conduct
Defining Research Integrity

- Professional codes
- Government regulations
- Institutional policies
- Personal convictions
Defining Research Integrity

- **Professional codes**
  - When applicable, the guidance provided by professional societies is a good place to begin learning about responsible research practices
  - APTA: Integrity in Research
  - APA’s Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct: To promote accuracy, honesty, and truthfulness in the science, teaching, and practice of psychology
  - American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Ethics Statement: Conduct research and teaching in a manner that is consistent with accepted scientific and teaching methods, maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all professional endeavors
  - American Society for Microbiology (AMS) Code of Ethics
Defining Research Integrity

- Government regulations
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- Personal convictions
  - If you are uncertain whether a particular course of action is responsible, subject it to one simple test. Imagine what you are preparing to do will be reported the next day on the front page of your local newspaper. If you are comfortable having colleagues, friends, and family know what you did, chances are you acted responsibly.
Core Elements of RCR

- Research misconduct
- Publication practices and responsible authorship
- Peer review
- Conflict of interest and commitment
- Collaborative research
- Acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership of data
- Mentor/trainee responsibilities
RCR Special Topics

- Animal Welfare
  - Training required for anyone working with vertebrate animals
  - All activities must be described in a research protocol approved by the IACUC

- Human Subjects Protections
  - Training for anyone interacting with living human subjects
  - All activities must be described in a research protocol approved by the IRB
Additional Considerations

- **Biological Safety**
  - Research activities with potentially hazardous biological materials on campus, including recombinant DNA, infectious materials, human materials, and toxins requires approval from UNLV’s Institutional Biosafety Committee

- **Radiation Safety**
  - Research activities involving the use of radioactive materials require approval from the Radiation Safety Committee

- **Chemical Safety**
Additional Considerations

- Permit Requirements
  - Public lands, USDA

- Export Controls
  - Deemed exports: unlicensed “export” of certain technologies to foreign persons for reasons of international security and trade protections
  - Restrictions may apply to: foreign travel, foreign shipments
  - Additional information: UNLV’s website [http://www.unlv.edu/research/export](http://www.unlv.edu/research/export); CITI training; Export Control Officer
Where do I go for help?

- PI/Mentor
- Colleagues
- Chair or Director
- Research Office (ORI)
Information/Resources

- Federal Office of Research Integrity
- Guidelines on UNLV’s Office of Research Integrity Website
- CITI RCR course (online)
- UNLV’s RCR training
  - Four face-to-face sessions each semester
  - Presentations available online