Responsible Conduct of Research
Facilitators

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Aim of this session

- Brief overview of RCR training best practices and RCR resources available
- Attendees will be encouraged to share their experiences of offering RCR training to staff and researchers at their institutions (establish a community of resources)
- Roundtable discussion with respect to RCR implementation and coordination within different settings
- New topic – don’t expect answers
- Safe and respectful environment for learning based discussions
- **Caution:** do not discuss specific cases, limit identifiable information in discussions to ensure confidentiality is maintained!
What is Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)?

- Behaviour?
- Ethics Police?
- Avoiding misconduct?
- A Social Contract?
- A Code of Virtues?
- Rules and Laws?

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These apply to all researchers, regardless of funding.
The Sliding Scale

RCR
Ethics
Integrity
Peer Review
Honesty & Accountability
Data Man. & Sharing
“Slow Science”
Inclusion of Failures

Measured curiosity

Things to foster

Questionable Practices
Inaccuracy
Misrepresentation
Bias
Unaddressed COI
Questionable publication practices
Vanity conferences/journals
Cutting corners

Research Misconduct
Falsification
Fabrication
Data Manipulation
Invalid Authorship
Malpractice
Fraudulent use of research $$
Willful dishonesty

Dangerous path to tread!

*DO NOT DOs*

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New Framework
Training researchers & students
RCR staff/structure
Atlantic RIO List-serve
Challenges in RCR Training

Different definitions
Multiple sets of guidelines to follow
Confusion, (“grey areas”)
Low event turn out if not mandatory
Traditional RCR comes across as bureaucratic, legalistic and restricting exploration

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Training Resources

**Framework Interpretations** training materials have been promised

**Responsible Conduct of Research – CITI Program** $\$, US content

Six online courses on RCR by Columbia University FREE, US content incl. COI, mentoring, responsible authorship, peer review, research misconduct, collaborative science, data acquisition/management

The Lab: An interactive movie on research misconduct FREEE, European content incl. avoiding research misconduct, mentorship responsibilities, handling of data, responsible authorship, and questionable research practices

The Dilemma Game – Professionalism and Integrity in Research FREE, new, global, very engaging

Epigeum online course $\$, European, ideal for students and early-career researchers, covers 5 disciplines

The Netherlands Research Integrity Network facilitates collaboration/exchanges/mutual learning

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Is this a research ethics issue?

“A breach of the RCR Framework is the failure to comply with any Agency policy throughout the life cycle of a research project – from application for funding, to the conduct of the research and dissemination of research results.”

– RCR Framework 3.1
Regulatory Intersection

...between research ethics review and research misconduct
Separate, independent (?), but overlapping
Different requirements and different enforcement mechanisms
How should REBs handle this?
What do they need to know?
REB best practices?

Threshold for reporting
Discovery – monitoring, random, complaints from research participants
How to handle, any differences?
Small research offices/dual roles? Impact?
Outcomes of investigations – what is communicated, implications for REB review, disciplinary actions?
Parting thoughts......?

What would be helpful resources for institutions?

Think about and suggest topics for next year