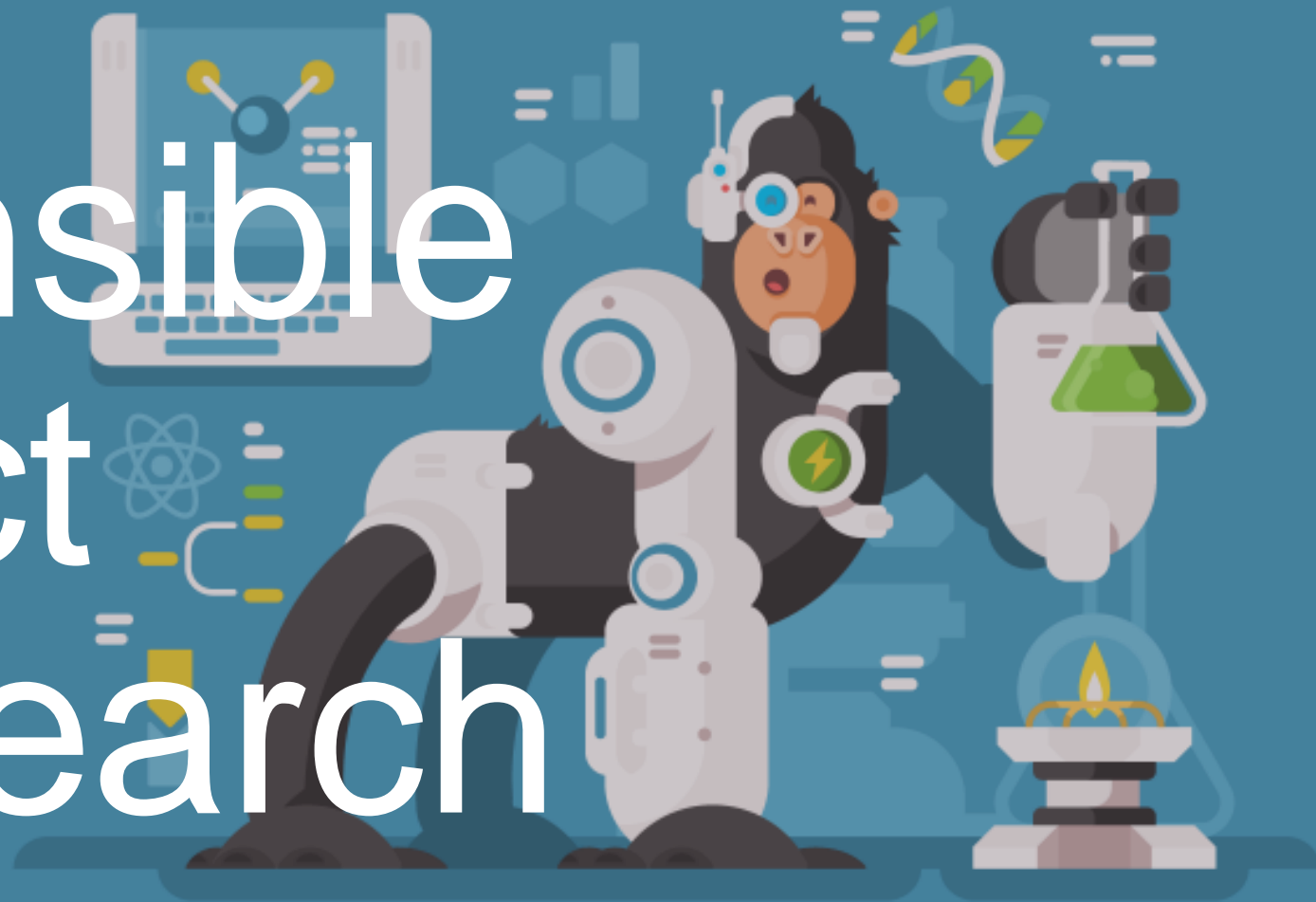


# Responsible Conduct of Research



# 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?

Rules and Laws?

Ethics Police?

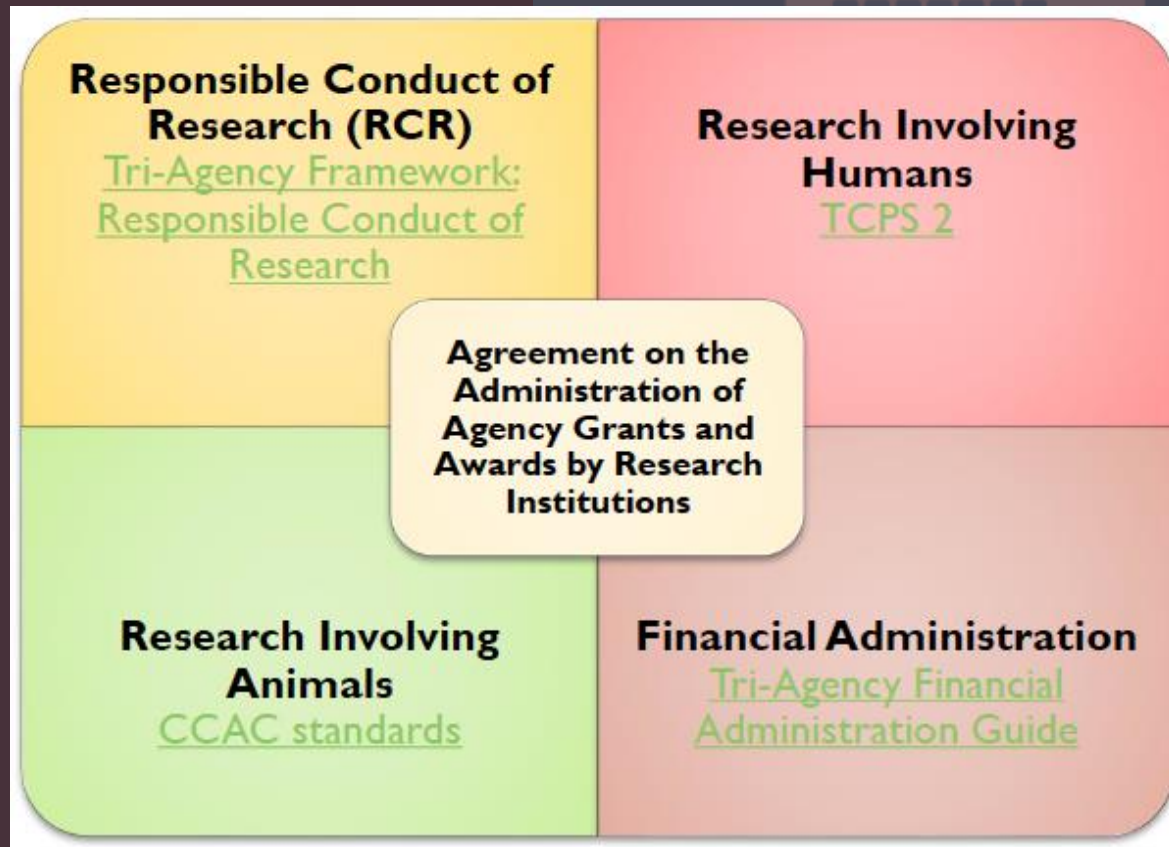
Avoiding misconduct?

A Social Contract?

A Code of Virtues?



# Federal Policy BIG PICTURE



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**

*Dangerous path to tread!*

## Research Misconduct

Falsification  
Fabrication  
Data Manipulation  
Invalid Authorship  
Malpractice  
Fraudulent use of research \$\$

**Willful dishonesty**

*\*DO NOT DOs\**

# Roundtable

# RCR training best practices

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



[Framework Interpretations](#) training materials have been promised

[Responsible Conduct of Research – CITI Program](#) \$\$, US content

# Training Resources

[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](#) FREE, 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

# 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**