

What do we mean by the “responsible conduct of research”? This phrase, or its popular acronym, RCR, usually conjures up the educational requirements of federal funding agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Such requirements first appeared almost 15 years ago when the NIH mandated education in RCR for pre- and postdoctoral students whose support came from training NIH grants. By default then, content areas suggested by federal agencies largely have defined the meaning of RCR. Two of these core topics are: authorship and publication practices, and the management of competing interests.

Some issues in scientific authorship involve the assignment of credit and responsibility, especially in collaborative and interdisciplinary studies, duplicative publication, and proper use of citations and acknowledgements. Competing interests in biomedical research are typically discussed in terms of financial conflicts, conflicts of commitment, and conflicts of conscience. Identifying and managing such conflicts have assumed a high visibility in both the scientific and lay communities.

This lecture will provide an overview of developments in scientific authorship and conflict of interests relating to the performance of research. It will focus on extant and emerging guidelines, federal policies, and institutional procedures that discuss or define standards, policies, or mandates.

#### Educational Objectives:

1. Know the locations and types of documents that provide information on the normative standards of authorship.
2. Know criteria that are commonly accepted for defining authorship and apply them in the analysis of hypothetical cases
3. Know the locations and types of documents that bear on identifying, disclosing, and handling competing interests in doing research.
4. Apply policies that address competing interests to solve hypothetical cases.