

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR) AT LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY (LMU)

Overview

LMU is committed to maintaining high standards of ethical conduct in all aspects of its work including research and education. Appropriate instruction in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) is an essential component of the professional development of our faculty and students at all career levels.

This plan articulates a program to provide training in key RCR topics. However, an academic researcher's exposure to RCR is not limited to a specific classroom experience. The University shares responsibility with its senior researchers, course instructors and other mentors for ensuring that our students, trainees and faculty at all career levels have formal and informal opportunities to observe, model, evaluate and discuss responsible research behaviors during their time at LMU. RCR training is an important component of research education at LMU regardless of discipline, career aspiration, or source of research support. However, the University recognizes specific obligations to certain federal sponsors. This plan is designed to meet the following requirements:

- NSF-the America COMPETES Act Implementation of Section 7009
- NIH training grants requirements as described in Notice, Update on the Requirement for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research NOT-OD-10-019

Goals

This program will:

- Reinforce the University's commitment to excellence in research
- Introduce trainees to fundamental principles of Responsible Conduct of Research
- Provide an overview of terms, concepts and policies related to RCR
- Develop skills to identify and address ethical dilemmas in research
- Describe campus resources available to support researchers with RCR concerns
- Assess each trainee's mastery of core principles
- Foster a culture of open discussion of ethical dilemmas in classroom, laboratory and office settings

Covered Population: RCR training is strongly recommended for all graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, other postgraduate trainees and junior faculty, as well as undergraduate students engaged in research. Participation is required for the following individuals:

- Undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF grants to the University. Support includes both salary support and funding for research expenses, e.g. dissertation improvement grants.

- Trainees at all career levels supported by NIH grants in programs defined by NOT-OD-10-019.

RCR training received during a previous career stage (e.g. undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, junior faculty), either at LMU or elsewhere, does not exempt a trainee from this requirement.

Timing and Frequency: Trainees will be required to complete their training before the start of their funded project.

Training Details: LMU has chosen an online module provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) base at the University of Miami (FL). Additional training by the University will be provided that will allow for face-to-face interaction and instruction.