Template for NIH Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research

Instructions

TSRI trainees may use this template for addressing Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirements for grant and fellowship applications. This section is limited to 1-page for individual training grant applications, including F and K awards. It can be narrated from either the first or third person perspective.

For new applications, this section must document prior and current participation in RCR training before and during the applicant’s current career stage, and to propose plans for further training at TSRI that is aligned with NIH requirements.

For resubmission, this section must describe any changes in formal instruction over the past project period and plans for the future that address any weaknesses in current RCR instruction.

Please adapt this template to your particular circumstances. For more information, see Requirement for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research, the SF424 (R&R) Application Guide, and TSRI RCR information available at the CPSO website.

Template

Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

I recognize that ongoing RCR training of varied forms is integral to the career development activities associated with the proposed award. I have participated in multiple RCR training opportunities as a graduate student [and postdoctoral scholar], and look forward to continued learning in research ethics and ethical decision-making. Along with frequent discussions with my faculty mentor, [Name], we have developed a plan to fulfill the requirements as outlined by NIH Notice Number NOT-OD-10-019 (or “by NSF Notice Number E9-19930”).

Formal Training:

I completed the institution-specific responsible conduct of research requirements when I pursued my PhD degree at [Institute], and during my first postdoctoral training at [Institute]. The course I took at [Institute] was [specific course title, number, length, format, etc.]

At TSRI, I will continue the formal training in responsible conduct of research. TSRI has an established program in partnership with the University of California San Diego entitled “Ethics in Science”, which is designed to meet or exceed all NIH and NSF requirements for RCR training. I plan to attend the program in [fall, 2018].

1. Format: The program consists of seven classes, each spanning two hours, with a combination of lectures, student presentations, reading assignments, and discussion in class.
2. **Subject Matter:** The topics covered by this program include, but are not limited to: Data Management, Bias, Conflict of Interest, Animal Subjects, Human Subjects, Stem Cells, Authorship, Publication, Peer Review, Collaboration, Mentoring, Social Responsibility, and Whistleblowing.

3. **Faculty Participation:** Lectures and group discussions are led by Michael Kalichman (UCSD faculty, Director of San Diego Research Ethics Consortium). Faculty and staff from TSRI with extensive experience in the subject matter frequently serve as in-class guest facilitators to contribute to presentations and discussions. [My mentor, Dr.X, is also a regular guest faculty lecturer for this program.]

4. **Duration and frequency of Instruction:** Instruction consists of seven class meetings for two hours each day. To receive credit, I must attend all seven sessions and fulfill requirements for presentations, discussions, and reading assignments. According to the syllabus, this formal training is offered [every fall for Jupiter, every winter for La Jolla].

**Informal Training:** In the lab of my mentor [Name], I receive ongoing informal RCR training through individual meetings with [PI] and [Co-mentors/Collaborators], as well as group meetings on a [weekly] basis. These meetings offer the opportunity to reinforce the principles I learned through the formal RCR classes, and offer a forum for continually discussing experimental design, data management, authorship, sharing of data and reagents, animal subjects, and more. [In addition, I have participated in online courses, seminars, read and critiqued/had conversations with mentors about articles pertaining to scientific ethics, etc.]