

## **Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research – Are you Up to Speed?**

This is a very important question if you are in certain populations of the University of Louisville research community. Whether you are subject to this requirement may depend upon your employment status, as in the case of postdoctoral fellows, scholars and associates; or your current funding source, such as those funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) training or career development awards or, most recently, by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The University of Louisville implemented a Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) policy in 2007 that addressed training requirements. RCR training and education includes a variety of topics. Some of these topics include: conflict of interest - personal, professional, and financial; policies regarding human subjects, live vertebrate animal subjects in research, and safe laboratory practices; mentor/mentee responsibilities and relationships; collaborative research, including collaborations with industry; peer review; data acquisition and laboratory tools; data management, sharing and ownership; financial stewardship; research misconduct and policies for handling misconduct; responsible authorship and publication; the scientist as a responsible member of society; contemporary ethical issues in research; and the environmental and societal impacts of scientific research.

The areas included in the RCR training set were first determined by a federal regulation that was suspended in 2001. Since that suspension, funding agencies, such as NIH and NSF have picked up the banner to require certain levels of RCR training for those individuals supported by their organizations. As funding agencies have strengthened or added new RCR training requirements, UofL has adopted additional training and education opportunities to assist researchers in meeting these requirements. The current requirements are briefly explained below:

- ***Postdoctoral Trainees:*** Individuals in these employment groups are required to complete training in RCR areas regardless of funding source. The origin of this two-phase training requirement is the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research. The first phase is completion of the online RCR modules through the CITI web site. These modules must be completed once every four years. Directions for registering and completing this phase of the RCR training requirement are available through the Research Integrity Program ([ori@louisville.edu](mailto:ori@louisville.edu)). The second phase of this requirement involves completion of 4.5 approved RCR contact hours every calendar year. Most seminars sponsored by the Research Integrity Program qualify as approved RCR contact hours. Individuals can refer to seminar announcements for further details. Additional UofL seminar offerings may qualify for RCR contact hours. To seek certification of additional seminar attendance to fulfill the RCR training requirement, please contact the Research Integrity Program. Please note: the training program designed for postdoctoral trainees sufficiently fulfills both the NIH and NSF requirements, so any postdoctoral trainee who has fulfilled the RCR training requirements for UofL is also certified for NIH or NSF.
- ***Individuals receiving funding through the following NIH funding mechanisms: D43, D71, F05, F30, F31, F32, F33, F34, F37, F38, K01, K02, K05, K07, K08, K12, K18, K22, K23, K24, K25, K26, K30, K99/R00, KL1, KL2, R25, R36, T15, T32, T34, T35, T36, T37, T90/R90, TL1, TU2, and U2R:*** All trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, or dissertation research grant must receive instruction in RCR. The NIH requirement mandates substantial face-to-face training. This requirement can be fulfilled through the

completion of 8 contact hours within each career stage. As noted above, most seminars sponsored by the Research Integrity Program qualify as approved RCR contact hours. Individuals can refer to seminar announcements for further details. The Research Integrity Program encourages faculty mentors on the above type awards to fulfill their RCR training requirement by serving as training facilitators or discussion group leaders. Faculty interested in pursuing facilitation opportunities should contact the Research Integrity Program.

- ***Students (Undergraduate and Graduate) and Postdoctoral Trainees on NSF grants awarded after January 5, 2010:*** Students and trainees in this category must complete the online RCR modules through the CITI web site. These modules must be completed once every four years. Directions for registering and completing this phase of the RCR training requirement are available through the Research Integrity Program ([ori@louisville.edu](mailto:ori@louisville.edu)). For postdoctoral trainees in this category, there is an additional requirement of inclusion of a mentoring plan in the proposal document. While the postdoctoral trainee will ultimately be affected (positively) by the mentoring plan, it is the responsibility of the principal investigator/mentor to create and submit the plan. Mentors are encouraged to involve the trainee in the development of the plan. Plan templates are available from the Research Integrity Program.

The Research Integrity Program seeks opportunities to partner with research groups, departments and units to develop and present RCR training and education. Such partnership occasions enrich offerings and allow training and education to be tailored to the audience. For more information or if you have questions, please contact the [Research Integrity Program](#) at 502-852-2454.