RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR) SYLLABUS

Fall 2025 Seminar Series – Tulane University
Course INTD-6010-01, CRN 64291
Thursdays; August 21, 2025 – October 23, 2025; 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: Hybrid; online via Zoom and lectures noted with an asterisk are also offered in person in Tidewater Room 105

Seminar Series Synopsis

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) is the practice of scientific investigation with integrity. It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research. Each week, a guest presenter will lead an interactive seminar about the best practices in research that will help participants deepen their knowledge of ethical research and responsible conduct. Each seminar topic is listed below. This seminar series is offered through the School of Medicine's Interdisciplinary Studies-Graduate Department.

Objectives

Objectives for the course are to:

- ensure and improve integrity of research and promote quality research conduct
- provide awareness of expectations about research conduct within the research enterprise as articulated in federal, state, institutional and professional laws, policies and practices
- provide awareness of the uncertainty of some norms and standards in research practices due to factors including changes in technology used in research and the globalization of research
- promote public trust in science
- manage the impact of research on the world beyond the laboratory, including society and the environment

Goals

Goals for the course are to:

- increase knowledge of ethical issues and practices
- strengthen understanding of appropriate data management as it relates to responsible conduct of research
- increase skills related to ethical decision-making and conflict management
- improve attitudes toward open communication and respect of issues
- improve behavior and choices

Training Requirements Satisfied by the RCR Seminar Series

This seminar series satisfies the responsible conduct of research training requirements of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NIH requires that 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 considers eight hours of RCR training over the life of the grant to be acceptable. The NIH requires that RCR instruction must be undertaken at least once during each career stage and at a frequency of no less than once every four years. The NIH RCR training requirements may be accessed through this link: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-055.html. The NSF requires all undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers whose research will be supported by the NSF to complete RCR training. The NSF does not place a requirement for the number of training hours or the method of training. Either online RCR training via the CITI training module (https://about.citiprogram.org/) or attendance at the RCR Seminar Series meets the NSF requirement. The NSF RCR training requirements may be accessed through this link: https://www.nsf.gov/od/recr.jsp.

The course includes training in Enhancing Reproducibility through Rigor and Transparency, as per NIH requirements listed in NIH Notice Number NOT-OD-16-034: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-034.html. The curriculum is designed to ensure the knowledge and skills required to design and conduct rigorous, well-controlled experiments that consider all relevant biological variables, use authenticated biological and chemical resources, and apply appropriate statistical tests for data analyses.

Attendance/Grading

Participation is for both registered participants and non-registered participants. **Participants who want the seminar series to appear on their transcripts must register and must attend eight of the nine seminars to obtain a satisfactory grade**. Registered participants who meet the attendance criteria will receive 0.00 credit hours with a grade of satisfactory. Attendance at less than the full hour of a seminar will result in no credit for that seminar. Those who do not wish for the seminar series to appear on their transcripts may attend any of the seminars and (whether registered or not) can receive a certificate for each seminar attended upon request.

Course Materials

Reading, assignments, and handouts will be posted on Tulane Canvas: https://tulane.instructure.com/. Your Canvas sign-in and password is your Tulane e-mail login and password. Each participant is responsible for checking Canvas for readings, handouts, and assignments. Please review materials in advance of each seminar and prepare questions to ask at each seminar. Please check your Tulane e-mail regularly for seminar announcements. Presentations will be posted [after the end of the seminar series] to the Tulane Research Compliance website at https://research.tulane.edu/compliance/rcr.

Location

All seminars will be from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in a hybrid format. All lectures will be on Zoom, and lectures noted with an asterisk are also offered in person in Tidewater Room 105. Lectures offered in person may be attended either in person or on Zoom. **A website has been set up for this class**, and the Zoom link for each session is available on the website: Responsible Conduct of Research Fall 2025 Seminar Series | Tulane Office of Research.

Seminar Schedule

Date	Presenter	Subject
August 21*	Samuel Kakraba, PhD Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics and Data Science Tulane Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and Center for Aging, Tulane School of Medicine	Responsible Conduct of Research Using AI
August 28*	Robert F. Garry, Jr., PhD Associate Dean, Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	Peer Review
September 4*	Pierre Buekens, MD, PhD W.H. Watkins Professor; Director, Center for Emerging Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology; Tulane SPHTM	Responsible Authorship and Publications
September 11*	Chad Steele, PhD Chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology Tulane School of Medicine	Enhancing Reproducibility Through Rigor and Transparency: NIH Expectations
September 18*	Brian Rowan, PhD Associate Professor and Chair, Structural and Cellular Biology Gerald & Flora Jo Mansfield Piltz Endowed Professor of Cancer Research Tulane School of Medicine	Research Misconduct and its Impact on Careers and Science
September 25*	Robert V. Blair, PhD, DVM, DACVP Assistant Professor; Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Tulane National Primate Research Center	Responsible Use of Images in Research
October 2	Fall Break; no class	n/a
October 9	W.T. Godbey, PhD Associate Professor Tulane School of Science and Engineering	Data acquisition, analysis, management, sharing, ownership, recordkeeping, ethical data use/confidentiality
October 16*	Christopher Dressler Tulane Export Controls & Foreign Influence Compliance Officer	Research Security, Undue Foreign Governmental Influence on Research and Export Controls
October 23	Kay P Maye, MS Scholarly Engagement Librarian-Resource and Data Analyst Tulane University Libraries and Yue Ming, MLIS, PhD Research Support Librarian; Matas Library of the Health Sciences	Secure data use and collaborative research

Questions

If you have questions or wish to submit questions in advance regarding any of the topics in the seminar series, contact Research Compliance Office researchcompliance@tulane.edu (504) 988-1147; Deputy Research Compliance Officer Lisa Wurtzel lwurtzel@tulane.edu (504) 988-2557; or Research Compliance Officer Brian Weimer bweimer1@tulane.edu (504) 988-1147.