Responsible Conduct of Research

Brandeis Policy on RCR

The current policy, dated Jan 4 2010, is stated at http://www.brandeis.edu/ora/RCR/index.html

Beginning January 4, 2010 all students, administrators, and postdoctoral researchers supported on a sponsored project are required to complete the CITI Responsible Conduct of Research Online Training within 60 days of beginning work on a sponsored project regardless of sponsor.

In addition, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers are required to attend the interactive RCR Seminar Course, Continuation 300B. Registration for this seminar is through the Registrar’s Office for graduate students. Postdoctoral researchers must contact the instructor of the course to register.

Online RCR training through the CITI program is valid for 3 years from date of completion, after which a “Refresher Course” must be taken. This training is in addition to any required IACUC, IBC or IRB training required by the University.

Grant agency policies regarding RCR.

- NSF
  - required for all new grants starting January 4, 2010
  - NSF expects institutions to be able to verify that those students (undergraduates and graduates) and postdoctoral researchers who receive NSF funds (support from salary and/or stipends to conduct research on NSF grants) will obtain RCR training.

- NIH
    - NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, and dissertation research grant must receive instruction in responsible conduct of research. This policy will take effect with all new and renewal applications submitted on or after January 25, 2010, and for all continuation (Type S) applications with deadlines on or after January 1, 2011. This Notice applies to the following programs: 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. This policy also applies to any other NIH-funded programs supporting research training, career development, or research education that require instruction in responsible conduct of research as stated in the relevant funding opportunity announcements.
    - Frequency of Instruction: Reflection on responsible conduct of research should recur throughout a scientist’s career: at the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, predoctoral, postdoctoral, and faculty levels. Institutional training programs and individual fellows/scholars are strongly encouraged to consider how to optimize instruction in responsible conduct of research for the particular career stage(s) of the individual(s) involved. Instruction must be undertaken at least once during each career stage, and at a frequency of no less than once every four years.

Additional notes on current practice

Graduate programs for which CONT 300B is required in the Bulletin

- Biochemistry and Biophysics (MS, PhD)
- Biotechnology (BS/MS, MS)
- Chemistry (MA, MS, PhD)
- Mathematics (PhD)
- Mol Cell Biology (MS, PhD)
- Neuroscience (MS, PhD)
- Physics (MS, PhD)
- Psychology (PhD)

Undergraduates

- At present, I'm unaware of a requirement for RCR training for undergraduates doing research, the exceptions being:
  - students appointed as Computational Neuroscience trainees
  - student in the Biotechnology BS/MS program
- To register for CONT 300, undergraduates must obtain a consent code from the instructors
Other researchers (staff, faculty)

- At present, I'm unaware of a university requirement for RCR training for research staff members or faculty. The ORA website indicates that "administrators" should do the online training, but it is unclear who is included in that requirement or who is tracking it.