Research Integrity & Ethics @ RMIT

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Overview of the Topic

What are research integrity and ethics?

Why do we need to talk about this?

How does this relate to you?
Why research integrity & ethics?

‘integrity’: the honesty and truthfulness or accuracy of one’s actions

‘ethics’: how moral outcomes can be achieved in specific situations

Trust

When it all goes wrong…

Anesthesiologist Fabricates 172 Papers
A researcher in Japan faked patient data on nearly 200 studies over the past 2 decades, according to an investigating committee.

By Jef Akst | July 3, 2012

Yoshitaka Fujii, a Japanese anesthesiologist, may have just set a new record in scientific misconduct. After an investigating committee organized by the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists concluded that he never saw the patients he claimed to see, or administered the medicine he claimed to treat them with, a total of 172 papers regarding those patients are up for retraction—a record number by a single author, according to ScienceInsider.

“It is as if someone sat at a desk and wrote a novel about a research idea,” the committee wrote in its report, posted in Japanese on the society’s website last week (June 29).

The Scientist, 10 July 2012
And who gets to know about it...

Office of Research Integrity
NEWS LETTER

Case Summaries

Jennifer Jamieson
State University of New York
Upstate Medical University

Based on the report of an investigation conducted by the State University of New York, Upstate Medical University (SUNY US) and additional analysis conducted by ORI in its oversight review, ORI found that Ms. Jennifer Jamieson, former graduate student, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, SUNY US, engaged in research misconduct in research supported by National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), grant R01 GM047607-18A1, and National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH, grants R01 HL70244-05.

ORI found that Respondent engaged in research misconduct by falsifying data that were included in grant application R01 GM047607-18A1, in a manuscript submitted for publication to the Journal of Cell Biology and in several interdepartmental data presentations. Specifically, ORI found that:

• Respondent falsified Figure 1A in a manuscript submitted for publication to the Journal of Cell Biology, by altering immunoprecipitation Western blot data to make this experiment appear that no Vav2 SH2 was associated with PKL 3YF, when in fact it did. In addition, the Respondent falsified five figures depicting Western blots of similar experiments in four (See Case Summaries, page 9)

March 2012, Volume 20, No. 2
Enter ‘The Code’…

Aims to reflect best practice to ensure high quality research and training and sets current standards and expectations

Is binding for National Health & Medical Research Council and Australian Research Council funding
And what not to do...

Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or deception in proposing, carrying out or reporting the results of research

Failure to declare or manage a serious conflict of interest

Avoidable failure to follow research proposals as approved by a research ethics committee

Wilful concealment or facilitation of research misconduct by others
Who is setting the rules?

Gene Technology Act 2000

Act No. 169 of 2000 as amended

This compilation was prepared on 6 July 2007
taking into account amendments up to Act No. 99 of 2007

The text of any of those amendments not in force
on that date is appended in the Notes section

The operation of amendments that have been incorporated may be
affected by application provisions that are set out in the Notes section

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing,
Attorney-General’s Department, Canberra
What do we do @ RMIT?

RMIT UNIVERSITY & THE AUSTRALIAN CODE FOR THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (CODE)

Part A: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH CONDUCT

- Section 1: General Principles of Responsible Research
- Section 2: Management of Research Data and Primary Materials
- Section 3: Supervision of Research Trainees
- Section 4: Publication and Dissemination of Research Findings
- Section 5: Authorship
- Section 6: Peer Review
- Section 7: Conflicts of Interest
- Section 8: Collaborative Research across institutions

- Research Integrity policies and procedures
  - Research Integrity and the Conduct of Research
  - Humans, Animals & Genetically Modified Organisms
  - Research Structures
  - Collaborative Research across Institutions

- Research Management policies & procedures
  - Creation, Access, Storage
  - Authorship of Research Publications
  - Retention, Disposal, Curation
  - Use of External Data, Access to Restricted Materials

- Research Practice policies & procedures
  - Publication and Dissemination of Research Results
  - Management of HDR Students
  - Peer Review Processes
  - Managing Conflicts of Interest
  - Intellectual Property

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Quality   Risk Management
Financial Management   Ethical Acceptability   Safety

PART B: BREACHES OF THE CODE, RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

- Section 9: Research Misconduct Procedures
- Section 11: Responsibilities
- Section 12: Framework for Resolving Allegations

- Procedure & Framework
- Designated Person & Research Integrity Advisors

EDUCATION & SUPPORT

- Training - Training Modules & Workshops
- Mentoring - Mentors and Supervisors
- Safe Environment - Safety
Your resources @ RMIT:

Research Integrity & Governance
- Policy Development, Education & Training
- Research Integrity & Preliminary Investigations

Human Ethics
- Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)
- College Human Ethics Advisory Networks (CHEANS)

Animal Ethics
- Animal Ethics Committee (AEC)
- Animal Welfare Officer

Genetic Modifications
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Facility Certification
Important issues to consider:

Primary Research Materials & Data Sets
- Secure storage of research materials and data sets
- Sharing access / intellectual property

Research Records
- Set retention periods for ethics approvals
- Need to protect participant information

Dissemination of Research
- Authorship agreements
- Submission of data and ethics approval numbers
Where to find us:

Visit

http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse/Research

Or contact

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