

## **FAU Responsible Conduct of Research Program**

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) promotes Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) for all faculty, staff, students, and post-doctoral fellows involved in conducting research within the auspices of FAU. The FAU Division of Research (DoR) leads RCR programmatic efforts through both online and in person instruction, and coordinates with university personnel to ensure those participating in federally funded research or research training have the requisite RCR training.

To reinforce the concepts introduced in the online curriculum and in-person training, mentors and trainee(s) will be expected to meet regularly to discuss ongoing research, and the related ethical and procedural standards (i.e., data management, collaboration, authorship, etc.). Faculty and key personnel will be required to complete and maintain active RCR training as required by funding agencies and applicable institutional policies.

### **Format and Frequency of Instruction**

**Online instruction:** FAU uses the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) RCR training module to adhere to the federal training requirements. CITI is an online research training portal utilized by thousands of universities across the country and internationally for researcher training. All CITI course offerings are **valid for a three-year renewal cycle**, at which point a refresher course is required.

**In-person instruction:** To complement online learning, RCR workshops are led by faculty instructors from across various disciplines at FAU, and offered twice a year (fall and spring), providing eight hours of didactic training through in-person sessions. Through FAU's partnership with Max Planck Florida (MPFI) and University of Florida Scripps (UF Scripps), learners have the opportunity to attend sessions at either the Boca Raton or Jupiter campuses. The workshops provide a platform for interaction among researchers of various disciplines to consider issues and dilemmas associated

with conducting research, working in a research lab, writing publications, and other situations that researchers face daily which call for ethical considerations.

## **Educational Content**

### **Protection of Human Subjects and Welfare of Animal Research**

This two-part session dedicates one hour of learning to the protection of human subjects and one hour to protecting animal subjects in research. The human subject component discusses historical cases that led to the need for protection of human subjects in research, the role and responsibilities of an Institutional Review Board (IRB), and when IRB review is required. Practical steps to conduct ethical human subjects research are presented and examined through case studies. The animal subjects component provides a critical review of animal research including public opinion, controversies, and animal rights. Learners will be exposed to basic regulations, the role of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), quality standards of animal facilities, and the importance of caring for research animals.

### **Data Management Practices, Research Misconduct and Collaborative Research**

This workshop provides education on the elements of research misconduct (falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism), differences between misconduct and questionable research practices, and misconduct reporting requirements. Shared challenges and conflicts of collaborative research and data management are presented through a discussion of data ownership, sharing, storage, and collection.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Summarizes the distinctions between conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment and allows learners to identify and assess which conflict is at work through case studies. Approaches to assessing conflict and an examination of morals and value systems in the context of culture are reviewed through legal and philosophical perspectives.

## **Authorship, Peer Review, and Mentor/Mentee Responsibilities**

Overview of contributor roles that merit either authorship or acknowledgement.

Discussion of best practices on authorship conflict management. Ethical considerations of the peer review process including selecting appropriate journals, embracing feedback, and the process from manuscript submission to publication. Learners will receive tools on how to evaluate and establish appropriate mentor/mentee relationships including the roles, responsibilities, and value provided through these relationships.