

Overview of the Components of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)



(1) Research Misconduct

(A) RCR Research Misconduct Event(s) is defined as:

Falsification: Deliberate act of making up data or results and recording them.

Fabrication: Manipulation of research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

Plagiarism: Appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit.

(B) A RCR Event may refer research misconduct events as defined above or any other RCR Event(s) that may be categorized under one of the following components:

Data Management Practices

Conflicts of Interests and Commitment

Collaborative Research

Authorship and Publications

Peer Review

Mentor and Trainee Relationship

What to do if there is suspected Research Misconduct

Who to Report Research Misconduct to?

Whistle-Blower

OHRPP recommends that the Whistle-Blower (the individual reporting the suspected research misconduct) adheres to his/her institution's policies and or guidelines for whistle-blowing if there is suspected research misconduct.

Research/ Host Institution is the first contact point

Research/ Host institutions are required to notify the appropriate local research funding agency and the Office of Human Subject Research Protection Program (OHRPP) if the inquiry into an allegation of misconduct involving publicly funded research leads to sufficient evidence to proceed to an investigation.

When an investigation is complete, the research/ host institution is required to forward a copy of the evidence, the investigative report, recommendations made to the institutional official, and the subject's written response to the recommendations. Institutions must also inform the funding agency and the OHRPP about the decision of the institutional official and if any corrective actions have been or are being taken.

During an inquiry or investigation, if there is any immediate risk to public health or safety, the research activities should be suspended. If there may be violations of criminal or civil law, or if allegations are made public prematurely, the institution must notify the OHRPP & the relevant governmental and/or regulatory authorities immediately.

How to Report a Suspected Research Misconduct Event

If there is a suspected research misconduct event which falls within the definition as listed in definition 'A' and 'B' above, the “whistle-blower” reporting the suspected RCR Event(s)/ RCR Research Misconduct Event(s) should report the event to:

- i. their respective institution according to their research misconduct policies/guidelines, or
- ii. the institution(s) where the alleged event occurred

Download the RCR Event/ RCR Research Misconduct Event Report Form For Institution [here](#).

***All research conducted in NHG Institutions should be in compliance with the research proposal approved by the ethics board (i.e. DSRB), with ICH GCP, with NHG DSRB requirements, institution requirements and applicable regulations.**



(2) Protection of Human Subjects

Researchers have the responsibility of obtaining appropriate approval before conducting research involving human subjects. Therefore Researchers should know the following guides on the protection of human subjects:

- Ethical Principles pertaining to Human Subjects Protection, guidelines on governing human subjects research
- Apply the main ethical principles and the main components of informed consent process on how human subject research should be conducted
- Acquire appropriate training in Human Subjects Protection
- Accept continuing responsibility to ensure compliance through all stages of project
- The mandate and role of the Institutional Review Boards.

(3) Conflicts of Interests (COI) & Commitment



Researchers should recognize the Conflicts of Interest that are crucial and that there are required steps to be taken to ensure that they do not interfere with the responsible practice of research.

(4) Data Management Practices



Researchers should be familiar with the important considerations for data management.

(5) Mentor and Trainee Responsibilities



Researchers should understand the basic responsibilities of mentor-trainee relationship, work together to establish a “good” research environment, appreciate that mentoring means assuming the responsibility to supervise and review the trainees’ performance and that the ultimate goal of mentoring is to produce independent and responsible researchers.

(6) Collaborative Research



Researchers should appreciate that effective collaboration begins with a clear understanding of roles and relationships, good collaboration requires effective management plans and appreciate that different institutions may have different research practices.

(7) Authorship and Publication



Researchers should appreciate the minimum standards of responsible publications, understand the elements of a responsible publication, appreciate what contributes to responsible authorship and be aware of practices to avoid.

(8) Peer Review



Researchers should understand the qualities of responsible peer review, the importance of meeting deadlines for review, the importance of assessing quality of the research paper, appreciate the role of the reviewer to judge the importance of the research and understand the importance of preserving confidentiality.

(9) The Welfare of Lab Animals



Researchers intending to use animals in their research should know what activities are subject to regulation(s), understand and follow the rules for research approval, obtain appropriate training and accept continuing responsibility for compliance through all stages of the research. In addition, regardless of the level of invasiveness on the use or study of living animals in a research, researchers should familiarize themselves with their responsibilities and check with someone in a position of authority before making any plans or undertaking any work.