Integrating Integrity into the Research Process through Training

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National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Primary Federal agency in the United States for conducting and supporting medical research

- Executive Branch, White House
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), includes the Office of Research Integrity
- NIH
  - 27 Institutes and Centers
  - Over 18,000 employees
National Institutes of Health

~ $30 billion in Congressional appropriations
~ 80,000 applications/year
~ 50,000 active grants
  • > 325,000 individuals supported
  • > 3,000 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions
• 50 states and around the world
~ 10% of NIH budget supports
> 6,000 intramural scientists
National Institutes of Health

Not regulatory

Promote through partnership

- Responsible conduct of research
  http://grants.nih.gov/training/responsibleconduct.htm
- Training of young scientists
  http://grants.nih.gov/training/extramural.htm
- Career development
  http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards.htm
- Peer review
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/peer.htm
Honor system in the United States

- Self-reporting, self-identification
- Professional responsibility
- Strong ethical practice
- Reverence for science
- Misconduct first handled locally
Honor system in the United States

Peer review
- Grant applications
- NIH – 42 CFR 52h
- Manuscripts for publications
- Abstracts for scientific meetings

The role of the press
- New findings, discoveries
- Wrongdoing
NIH Support for Training in Research

- Ensures diverse pools of highly trained scientists
- Prepares qualified individuals for careers in health services research
NIH Support for Training in Research

National Research Service Awards (NRSA)

- Individual fellowships
  - Predoctoral (~ 500/yr)
  - Postdoctoral (500–900/yr)
  - Senior fellows (~100/yr)
- Institutional Training Grants
  - ~ 350/year

FY2007

- $764M for training awards
- ~16,000 positions/yr supported on training and fellowship awards
NIH Support for Career Development

Types of career development awards:
- Clinical Scientists
- Mentored Research
- Specific Focus Areas
- Established Investigators
- Pathways to Independence

FY 2006
- ~ $650M for all “K” awards
- ~ 4200 “K” awards
Instruction in Responsible Conduct of Research

Plans required for applications:

- NRSA Awards
- Institutional Training Awards
- Career Development Awards

Plans address:

- Training provided by sponsoring institution
- Candidate’s plans for obtaining instruction
Instruction in Responsible Conduct of Research

- NIH does not prescribe specific curriculum
- NIH does provide general guidance
  - Conflict of interest
  - Responsible authorship
  - Data sharing & management
  - Policies for handling misconduct
  - Policies regarding use of human & animal subjects
- Plans considered in peer review
Instruction in Responsible Conduct of Research

- Mentoring
- Online resources
  - Virginia Commonwealth University [http://www.courses.vcu.edu/micr510/](http://www.courses.vcu.edu/micr510/)
  - University of Pennsylvania [http://www.bioethics.upenn.edu/](http://www.bioethics.upenn.edu/)
- Formal coursework
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• Office of Research Integrity (DHHS)
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