Freedom, responsibility and Research Integrity

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ICSU: Who and what?

- Founded in 1931
- Non-governmental
- A membership organization with:
  130 National Members, and
  30 International Scientific Unions
- Represents the global science community
- Science for policy and policy for science

Research Integrity and ICSU's interest

1999 - World Conference on Science calls for a 'hippocratic oath' for scientists

Post 11/9/01 - Bio-security concerns lead to increased regulation and oversight

2006 - ICSU establishes new policy committee on Freedom and Responsibility in Science

2007 - co-sponsor Ist World Conference on Research Integrity with ORI and ESF

July 2010- 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity in Singapore

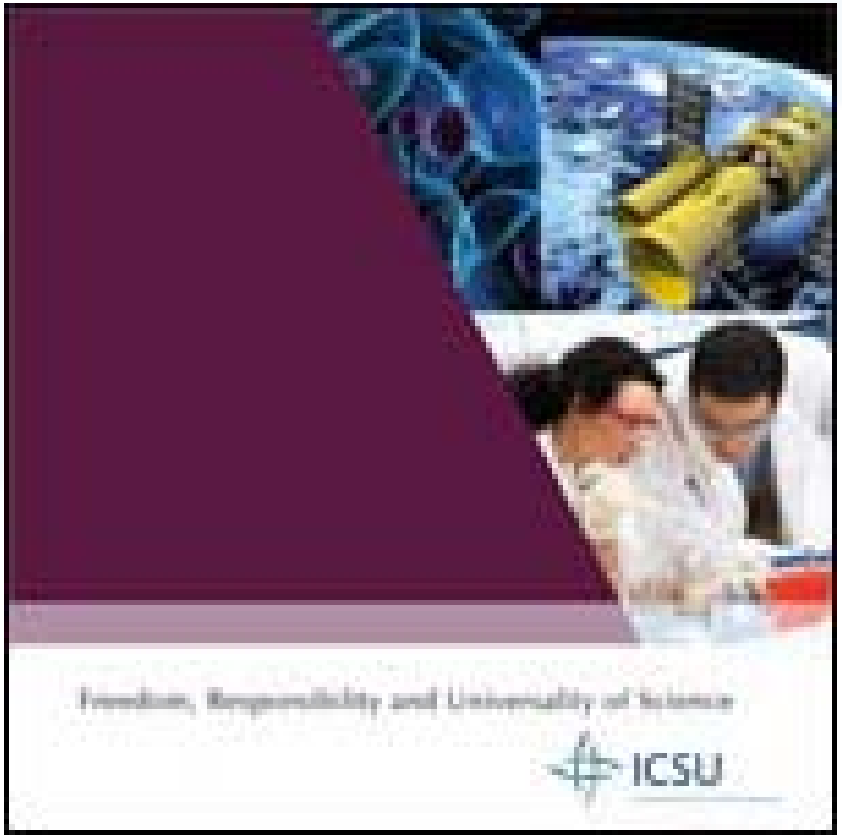
CFRS

Chair: Bengt Gustafsson (Astronomy, Sweden)
Ashima Anand (Physiology, India)
Ruth Arnon (Immunology, Israel)
Fatma Attia (Hydrology, Egypt)
Carol Corillon (Human rights, USA)
Alexander Kaminski (Physics, Russia)
Peter Mahaffy (Chemistry, Canada)
Sylvia Rumball (Ethics, New Zealand)
Akilagpa Sawyerr (Law, Ghana)
John Sulston (Molecular biology, UK)
Maurice Tchuente (Computer Science, Cameroon)
Ovid Tzeng (Psychology, China: Taipei)
David Vaux (Biochemistry, Australia)
Moises Wasserman (Biochemistry, Colombia)
Jiansheng Zhang (Economics, China: Beijing)

CFRS actions

1. Policy statements and advice to Members:
   - July 08 – Publication practices and indices and the role of peer review in research assessment
   - Sept. 08 – Promoting the integrity of science and the scientific record
2. Publications:
   - Oct. 08 – Freedom Responsibility and the Universality of Science
3. Partnerships with other international organisations e.g. ESF and US-ORI for World Conferences

A Booklet



Freedom, responsibility and Universality of Science

Booklet developed by ICSU-CFRS in consultation with all ICSU Members

A brief reference document for all stakeholders of the global scientific community

Makes explicit the responsibilities inherent in the Principle of Universality

Not a 'hippocratic oath' or pledge but a consensus document on freedoms and responsibilities

A framework for reflection and debate

The booklet contents

1. The nature of science
2. The Principle of Universality
3. Freedoms of scientists (movement, association, expression and communication)
4. Responsibilities of Scientists (internal and external)
5. Balancing freedoms and responsibilities (current dilemmas)
6. Suggested roles for various institutions

On the conduct of science

- Conduct work with honesty and integrity
- Report on work in an accurate, orderly, timely and open fashion
- Assess work (including one's own) impartially and fairly
- Be respectful and considerate, re human subjects, animals and the environment
- Duty to expose misconduct (whistle-blowing)

On responsibilities to society: collective

- Contribute to the wealth of shared human knowledge and experience
- Generate and promote the use of science to improve human welfare and sustainable dev.
- Ensure the benefits and minimise the potential dangers of applications of science
- Support good, evidence based, policy-making
- Promote public engagement in science
- Concern for the greater common good

On responsibilities to society: individual

- Uphold the principle of universality (non-discrimination and equity)
- Respect for human rights, animals and environment
- Acknowledge scientific risk and uncertainty
- Be accountable in any advisory capacity
- Communicate responsibly and honestly
- Place social benefits before personal gain

ICSU
International Council for Science

WWW.ICSU.ORG

Looking to the future

The overall aim:

to promote an honest research culture.

Challenges:

- What is the true scale of misconduct and questionable practice?
- Need appropriate rules, regulations and enforcement/investigation mechanisms
- Also need to address systemic issues e.g. are the incentives for career progression/measures of scientific success appropriate?
- Need to simultaneously tackle issues at multiple scales – local to global
- How best to integrate into formal and informal science education, training and mentoring?