Office of Research Compliance

Research Compliance Oversight
- Research Misconduct
- Conflict of Interest
- Biosafety
- Radiation Safety

Committees
- Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)
- Radiation Safety Committee (RSC)
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) Human Subjects
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
Research Misconduct

- Research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research results.
  - **Fabrication**: making up results and recording or reporting them.
  - **Falsification**: manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting results such that the research is not accurately represented in the record.
  - **Plagiarism**: appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving proper credit.
Criteria for Research Misconduct

• Represents a significant departure from accepted practices
• Has been committed intentionally, or knowingly, or recklessly; and
• Can be proven by a preponderance of evidence
• What is NOT MISCONDUCT: honest, unintentional error.
Why Does Misconduct Occur?

• Publish or Perish Pressure
• Desire to “get ahead”
• Personal problems
• Character issues
Bad Research Behaviors

• Falsifying or ‘cooking’ research data
• Using another’s idea without obtaining permission or giving credit
• Failing to present data that contradict one’s own previous research
• Removing observations or data points from results
• Publishing the same data in two or more publications
• Inappropriately assigning authorship credit
Reporting Noncompliance

- MSU encourages employees to discuss suspected legal, regulatory or policy violations with his or her supervisor, Human Resources or other administrators responsible for the program that is the cause of concern.

 Anyone can report noncompliance

Institutions

Federal Agencies

Employees
Federal False Claims Act

- Federal law that imposes liability on persons and companies who defraud governmental programs.
- Civil & Criminal Penalties - fines of $5,000-$10,000 PER false claim
- Whistleblowers empowered to bring actions for false claims – can receive up to 30% of the settlement
Research Misconduct

• MSU POLICY
  – It is the policy of Montana State University-Bozeman to require the highest ethical standards in the research of its faculty and staff; to inquire into and, if necessary, investigate and resolve promptly and fairly all instances of alleged or apparent misconduct; and, as appropriate, to comply in a timely manner with requirements for reporting cases of possible misconduct to sponsoring agencies when sponsored research funds are involved. Misconduct in research shall be considered a breach of contract between the employee and the University.
MSU RCR Training Plan

- PI’s with certain federal funding must train all students in RCR
- How: CITI Training
- MSU will report to awarding agency

RCR = Responsible Conduct of Research
Question 5

Responsible Conduct of Research

If you want to take Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Course, please make your selection below.

Choose one answer

- Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research Course
- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course
- Physical Science Responsible Conduct of Research Course
- Humanities Responsible Conduct of Research Course
- Responsible Conduct of Research for Engineers
Conflict of Interest

Defined: exists when an employee/student has a financial or personal interest in the outcome of an endeavor such that actions or decisions could be perceived as subject to influence in favor of the interest
COI Examples

- Relatives, personal relationships
- Outside employment or consulting
- Sponsored travel
- Equity, ownership
Personal Relationships

• Dating – Students/Professors
• Why: You are in a position to provide someone direct benefit or detriment via your MSU role
• Keep interactions professional
Outside Employment Conflicts

- Caution! May be asked to sign an agreement that all work for company is owned by the company, limiting your ability to publish your thesis

- Watch for supervisory conflicts
When is Research COI disclosed?

a) **Prior:** e-Proposal clearance form

b) **During:** if Significant Financial Interest is acquired

*Grad students may fall under PHS definition of “investigator”*
When is COI disclosed?

Whenever presented with a situation where public disclosure might lead an outside observer to believe a conflict exists.
When in doubt, disclose!