Pilot Program for Enhancement of Protection Against Reprisals

Effective July 1, 2013 through January 1, 2017, the Federal government enacted a pilot program aimed at enhancing and expanding protections for employees against reprisals for whistleblowing activities related to federal grants and contracts. The statute, 41 U.S.C. 4712, applies to all employees working for grantees, subgrantees, contractors and subcontractors on federal awards (excluding DOD, NASA, and Coast Guard).

For additional information, please review the regulation and announcement at http://www.yale.edu/grants/. Please distribute this information to all of your staff who work on or administer federal awards.

NSF’s Responsible Conduct of Research Training Requirement

This is a reminder to ALL National Science Foundation (NSF) funded faculty of the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirement for any undergraduate student, graduate student or postdoctoral researcher being paid on an NSF award. As required by the federal 2007 America COMPETES Act and originally announced in the ORA Newsletter Vol. 4 Number 4, the University finalized its plan on January 4, 2010.

The plan is summarized below. To review the complete training plan, located on the ORA website, click here.

Undergraduate Students

- Undergraduate students paid on a NSF award are identified in a monthly report, contacted by the Dean’s Office for Science and Education and informed that they must participate in RCR training.
- Training is taught by a member of the Dean’s staff and takes place in a small group session that lasts 90 minutes.

For questions or information about undergraduate RCR training, contact: 

William Segraves
Associate Dean for Science Education
william.segraves@yale.edu
203-432-1037

Alexia Belperron
Research Scientist, Internal Medicine
alexia.belperron@yale.edu
203-785-7660

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Graduate Students

- The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) requires the inclusion of ethics and RCR training in the curriculum of all graduate students.
- All entering students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) are required to attend a 1 ½ hour orientation on professional ethics and sexual harassment. During the first term GSAS students are also required to complete two additional online modules in professional ethics prior to registering for a second term.
- All science and engineering students are required to complete RCR training within their given discipline.
- By the end of their first year, GSAS students must complete the RCR course designated by their department or School.
- Courses run for a semester, one or two days per week depending on the discipline, usually in 60 minute sessions.
- Students are not permitted to register for a third term without having completed their required course.
- Humanities and Social Sciences students must complete the CITI RCR module within their first year.

For questions or information about graduate student RCR training, contact:

**Richard Sleight**
Associate Dean
*richard.sleight@yale.edu*
203-432-2744

**Carl Hashimoto**
Assistant Dean
*carl.hashimoto@yale.edu*
203-737-2746

Postdoctoral Appointees

- Postdocs are contacted by a member of the staff in the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and informed they must participate in RCR training.
- Postdocs are notified by email of course offerings and advised to sign up via TMS.
- Attendance at a minimum of 6 course sessions is required in order to fulfill the RCR training requirement.

For questions or information about Postdoc RCR training, contact:

**John Alvaro**
Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
*john.alvaro@yale.edu*
302-785-3735

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Update to Policy 1310 Principal Investigator Eligibility Requirements on Sponsored Projects and Form 1310 FR.04 PI Status Request

The purpose of Policy 1310, Principal Investigator Eligibility Requirements on Sponsored Projects is to establish criteria permitting individuals to fulfill the role of principal investigator (PI), program director (PD) or co-principal investigator (Co-PI) on a sponsored project and to ensure that sponsored projects are conducted by those who have the requisite training, skill, commitment and resources as well as the appropriate relationship to the University.

Though always a requirement, the policy has now been updated to specifically remind individuals serving as PIs, Co-PIs, or PDs of their responsibility to complete the following:

- the Patent Policy Acknowledgment and Agreement
- Sponsored Projects Administration Training for Faculty
- Conflict of Interest (COI) Disclosure (also applies to all “responsible” personnel)
- Veteran’s Administration Memorandum of Understanding (VA MOU), as applicable.

The form, 1310 FR.04 PI Status Request, has also been updated to include an attestation by the PI, Co-PI or PD that these requirements have been met.

Business Office staff are also reminded of their roles and responsibilities to ensure that any proposal submissions to the Office of Grant and Contract Administration indicate eligible individuals as PIs, Co-PIs and Program Directors, which includes ensuring that these individuals have completed the Patent Policy Acknowledgement and Agreement (PPAA), Sponsored Projects Administration Training for Faculty, Conflict of Interest Disclosure (COI), and Veteran’s Administration Memorandum of Understanding (VA MOU), as applicable.