

RCR Program Description for NIH Training, Fellowship and Career Award Applications

NIH Institutional Training Grant, Fellowship, and Career Award applications must include a plan for education in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) that addresses the five, required instructional components outlined in the NIH policy: format, subject matter, faculty participation, duration of instruction and frequency.

The NIH will not accept a plan limited to on-line instruction. The required format includes at least eight (8) hours of face-to-face lectures, coursework and/or real-time discussion groups.

Below is a description of the basic Partners program. PIs are encouraged to develop RCR training at the department and/or training grant level to supplement the Partners program and to include this information in their RCR plan.

Format

All trainees, fellows, and scholars receiving support from a NIH training grant (institutional or individual), career development award, fellowship, research education grant, or dissertation research grant are required to enroll in the Partners Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Program administered by the Partners Research Compliance Office. The Program consists of eight hours of face-to-face instruction and the CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) online, basic RCR course.

Trainees fulfill the face-to-face instruction requirement by attending a four-hour Partners RCR seminar and four additional hour-long hospital-based courses, lectures or discussion groups that are deemed “RCR eligible.”

[Insert description of departmental/training grant specific RCR activities.](#)

Subject Matter

The four-hour Partners RCR seminar includes faculty presentations and discussions on authorship, data management, documentation and integrity; conflict of interest and interactions with industry; research misconduct; and post-award financial management. The seminar also includes an overview of basic regulatory and institutional requirements for research involving human subjects, stem cells, animals, and biohazards/recombinant DNA. The hospital-based courses/lectures/discussion group offerings also focus on these topics and more. For example, depending on the year and faculty availability, they include sessions on effective mentoring; ethical considerations in clinical research; safe lab practices; research subject privacy; peer review; humane and compliant use of animals in research; and collaborative science. While some of the hospital-based

courses touch on ethical issues related to research with human subjects or animals, they are not the basic courses required of all researchers prior to working with human subjects or animals. Trainees/career awardees are not limited to RCR-eligible courses offered by their hospital; they may enroll in any RCR offering across the Partners HealthCare system.

To ensure that trainees and career awardees receive instruction in all of the topics identified by the NIH, they are also required to complete the online CITI basic RCR course for biomedical research.

Faculty Participation

The Partners RCR seminar draws upon a roster of senior hospital/Harvard Medical School faculty who teach in the seminar on a revolving basis. Instructors and their topics are listed below.

Some RCR seminar instructors also teach hospital-based courses (e.g., Drs. Dennis Brown, Tayabba Hasan, Karen Miller, and Pearl O'Rourke.) The remaining hospital-based courses are taught primarily by K-24 PIs in fulfillment of their RCR requirement and by hospital and Partners research faculty leadership (e.g., from Brigham and Women's hospital, Dr. Paul Anderson, Chief Academic Officer; from McLean Hospital, Dr. Shelly Greenfield, Chief Academic Officer and Dr. Scott Lukas, Research Training Grant Director; from Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Dennis Brown, Director of Office Research Faculty Career Development; and from Partners, Dr. Pearl O'Rourke, Director of Human Research Affairs and Dr. Elizabeth Hohmann, IRB Medical Director.)

The Partners Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Anne Klibanski, provides guidance to the Partners Corporate Director of Research Compliance on curriculum development and faculty participation.

Partners RCR Seminar Faculty

- Dr. David Altshuler: Mentorship
- Dr. Barbara Bierer: Research misconduct, conflict of interest
- Dr. Joseph Bonaventure: Faculty panelist commenting on all topics/speakers
- Dr. F. Richard Bringham: Conflict of interest, Data Integrity
- Dr. Dennis Brown: Data integrity, Publication, Peer Review, Authorship
- Dr. Emery Brown: Mentorship
- Christopher Clark, JD, Conflict of Interest
- Dr. Tayyaba Hasan: Research Misconduct, Authorship
- Dr. Henry Kronenberg: Documentation and Data Integrity
- Dr. Jianren Mao: Authorship
- Dr. James Meigs: Authorship
- Mary Mitchell: Grants Financial Management
- Dr. Karen Miller: Documentation and Data Integrity

- Allison Moriarty: Research Misconduct
- Dr. P. Pearl O'Rourke: IRB, IACUC, IBS, Privacy Board and Research Misconduct
- Dr. Marc Sabatine: Conflict of Interest
- Dr. Charles Serhan: Data Integrity
- Dr. Caren Solomon: Authorship
- Sarah White, IRB, Privacy Board

[Insert description of departmental/training grant faculty participation.](#)

Duration of Instruction and Frequency

The basic Partners program requires eight hours of face-to-face instruction with an additional four to five hours for the online CITI course. The four-hour Partners seminar is offered three-times a year. New trainees/career awardees are required to enroll in the seminar within 12 months of their appointment to the training grant/receipt of career development award and must complete the full program within 12 months of attending the Partners seminar. Trainees/career awardees may complete the online CITI course or enroll in hospital-based courses prior to attending the Partners seminar.

Additional RCR instruction is required of trainees/career awardees during their fourth year of NIH support. Since they will have already completed eight-hours of face-to-face instruction, they fulfill this requirement through completion of three modules, Collaborative Research, Peer Review and Research Misconduct, of the online CITI RCR Refresher Course. They may also attend any hospital-based, RCR-eligible course.

[Insert relevant departmental/training grant information.](#)