

## *Promoting the Responsible Conduct of Research for College and University Leaders*

A group of 80 research integrity officers (RIOs), senior institutional officials, government officials, attorneys, and research fellows throughout 18 states and five countries convened in Los Angeles April 14 and 15 to address handling research misconduct investigations and fostering ethical research environments. The conference, held in collaboration with Loyola Marymount University and the U.S. Office of Research Integrity (ORI), engaged a diverse range of institutional officials from both small and large institutions who held positions throughout the chain-of-command, from post-doctoral fellows to Vice Presidents of Research.

At the conference, government officials from ORI, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP), and the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) discussed regulatory requirements and best practices for handling research misconduct allegations, including those involving human and animal subjects. Representatives from institutions illuminated methods for promoting cultures of research integrity and addressed ways to improve communication and coordination at all organizational levels.

Multiple attendees said the conference energized them to tackle research integrity issues back home, while others, including Dave Hudson, Associate VP for Research and RIO at University of Virginia, commended the group's palpable dedication to protecting public trust in science.

"Given the huge diversity of audiences, I'm impressed by the similarities in our approaches and the things that I've learned," Hudson said. "Great to see the depth in thoughtfulness, spectacular approach, and dedication to these issues."

### *Memorable Quotes*

"Compliance will keep you out of jail; integrity will get you into heaven." – John Carfora

"Convey information; confirm understanding." – Keith C. Morris

"**ACT**: Be Aware, be Comprehensive, be Timely."

### **Themes:**

- ***Establishing a culture of research integrity.*** Many participants stressed the importance of creating an institution-wide culture of responsible conduct of research through continuous RCR training and mentoring, well-defined policies and procedures, and fluid lines of communication to both early-career researchers and senior institutional leadership.
- ***Incentivizing and rewarding RCR activities.*** While handling research misconduct allegations often takes center stage, attendees also underscored the importance of recognizing good behavior in research through awards for ethical conduct, recognizing service on committees, and promotion and tenure.
- ***Early communication and collaboration.*** Throughout the meeting, government officials, RIOs, senior institutional leadership, and attorneys alike addressed the benefits of communication to coordinate and integrate activities in research misconduct investigations. Topics included early consultation with legal counsel, harmonization of processes within the federal government, and bottom-up/top-down communications.