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Office of Research Integrity

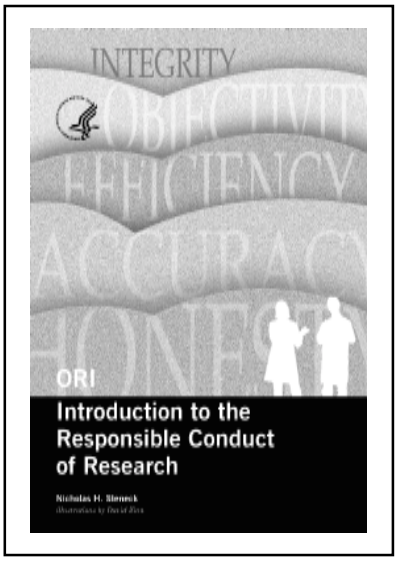
NEWSLETTER

The *ORI Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Office of Research Integrity, Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and distributed to applicant or awardee institutions and PHS agencies to facilitate pursuit of a common interest in handling allegations of misconduct and promoting integrity in PHS-supported research.

IN THIS ISSUE

Revised RCR Intro Text Available

The revised version of the *ORI Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research* is available for purchase from the Government Printing Office at http://bookstore.gpo.gov.



The 165-page booklet, written by Nicholas H. Steneck, University of Michigan, with illustrations by David Zinn, Ann Arbor, was revised because of production errors that occurred in the initial printing.

"Only minor changes were made in the content," Steneck said, "major changes were made in the design and formatting of the publication to make it easier to read and more visually appealing."

The booklet introduces the reader to the nine RCR core instructional areas in four sections that follows research from inception to planning, conducting, reporting, and reviewing research. The publication features case studies, text-box inserts, discussion questions, and electronic and printed resources. The booklet will be posted on the ORI web site later this year for on-line reading or downloading.

RCR Resources Program Makes 9 Awards

Nine awards will be made this summer in the third round of the RCR Resource Development Program to create instructional materials on data management, collaborative research, mentoring, the use of statistics and human subjects in clinical trials. Materials will also be developed for administrative staff, international postdocs and novice researchers.

By the February 27, 2004, deadline, 24 applications were received; the least number of applications submitted to the program to date. The funding rate was 37.5 percent, which is slightly below the 41 percent rate of the second round. Third-round funding totaled about $234,000; the lowest in the three rounds.

See New RFP on page 3

Graduate Schools to Launch RCR Programs

Graduate schools will have an opportunity to develop pilot research and demonstration projects designed to institutionalize responsible conduct of research (RCR) education for faculty and graduate students under a contract awarded to the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) by ORI last month.

The request for applications was sent to all eligible CGS member institutions and posted on the CGS web site at http://www.cgsnet.org/ and the ORI home page. A technical workshop will be held July 13, 2004, in conjunction with the CGS 2004 Summer Workshop and

See CGS Names Tate on page 2

CGS Names Tate Project Director (from page 1)

New Deans Institute in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to guide potential applicants through the proposal development process.

The submission deadline is August 20, 2004. Applications will be reviewed by CGS and ORI staff. Awards are expected to be made in September 2004.

Ten institutions will receive $15,000 each to develop a pilot project; each institution will be required to provide matching funds. Institutions that are not selected for funding will be offered the opportunity to participate as affiliated members of this RCR initiative.

From this collaborative effort, a corps of graduate deans is expected to emerge to exercise continuing leadership in RCR education. Additionally, a monograph on the demonstration projects and results, and best practices will be published.

Debra W. Stewart, President, CGS, said, "CGS is committed to achieving the highest standards of integrity in scientific research and recognizes that institutional and governmental policies and procedures for dealing with allegations of misconduct are not sufficient to address the responsible conduct of research. An aggressive strategy for educating scientists and those they train about the professional norms and ethical standards that foster responsible conduct of research is also needed. This contract will address that need."

"Graduate schools play an extremely important role in the intergenerational transmission of the professional practices, norms, values, and beliefs of the research community," Chris Pascal, Director, ORI, said. "CGS has been representing and advancing the interests of graduate education for over four decades, so we are pleased that CGS will engage its 450 member institutions in providing RCR education for faculty and students."

The project will be directed by Paul D. Tate, Dean of Graduate Studies, Idaho State University (ISU), who will serve as the CGS Dean in Residence from July 2004 to June 2005. Prior to becoming the graduate dean at ISU, he served as Director of the Philosophy Program, Chair of the Faculty Senate and Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at ISU. He is currently the President of the Western Association of Graduate Schools.

Dean Tate may be contacted at ptate@cgs.nche.edu, phone 202-223-3791.

IOM Releases Report On Children in Research

A report that addresses concerns about the adequacy of the current system for protecting child participants in research has been released by the Institute of Medicine.

The report, *The Ethical Conduct of Clinical Research Involving Children,* may be read online or purchased at http://www.nap.edu/books/0309091810/html.

Mentoring

The communication of the ideals of science, its values and methods, traditionally occurred through individual discussions between senior investigators and students. Given the increased size, complexity, and heterogeneity of the research training process, the committee believes that reliance on these discussions alone is not sufficient to provide effective instruments of professionalization and education." *The Responsible Conduct of Research in the Health Sciences,* p. 20, IOM, 1989.

Systemic Change Needed In Postdoctoral Mentoring

The postdoctoral experience for scientists and engineers needs considerable enhancement according to a convocation held at the National Academy of Sciences on April 15, 2004, that made numerous recommendations for systemic changes in the mentoring of postdoctoral scholars, especially for preparing postdocs for jobs in academia, industry, or the public policy realm, according to the *Washington Fax*.

This was the second convocation sponsored by the National Academies' Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy (COSEPUP) to assess the impact of its 2000 report, *Enhancing the Postdoctoral Experience for Scientists and Engineers.*

Maxine Singer, Chair, COSEPUP, said training agendas need to be modified to include how to write a grant application, how to construct a lab budget, how to speak effectively and other aspects of being an independent scientist that are generally absent from training programs. She recognized that "carrots" may need to be created to motivate mentors to include such topics in their programs.

Singer also suggested that Ph.D. training be decreased to "something less than seven or eight years" and that limits be placed on the length of the postdoctoral experience and the number of postdocs in each lab.

She also asked what would happen to the postdoctoral experience if the number of postdocs who are funded through their own grants were increased, thereby upsetting the current balance of power between postdocs and principal investigators.

Others suggested that institutions provide compensation, health insurance, legal, tax, and administrative advice for postdocs. For international postdocs, concern was expressed about mobility and visa issues, integration into U.S. institutions, and the need for language education programs.

New RFP for RCR Resources Coming Soon (from page 1)

"We hope the decline in applications is not an indicator of waning interest," Larry Rhoades, Director, Division of Education and Integrity, said. "Much remains to be done if we are to produce highly interactive, thought provoking, and intellectually challenging instructional materials that will generate rewarding learning experiences for novice and veteran researchers," he said.

In the first three rounds ORI has provided nearly $1 million to support 37 projects at 23 universities, 2 colleges, 2 hospitals, 1 professional association, and 3 commercial firms.

ORI is developing an RCR portal to display nine completed products by the end of summer. The completed projects include two web-based courses and a case-based learning tool covering all nine RCR core areas and more specialized materials addressing mentoring, authorship, plagiarism, conflict of interest, and animal welfare.

The fourth round request for proposals (RFP) will be issued this summer. Submission deadline will be February 25, 2005. The RFP will be posted on the ORI home page (http://ori.hhs.gov) and in the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts.*

Project titles, project directors, and institutions receiving the awards follow:

- *Online Education on the Responsible Conduct of Research: Oversight of Data Management*
  Meghan Coulehan
  Clinical Tools, Inc.
- *The Development of RCR Internet-based e-seminars on Collaborative Science and Data Management*
  Daniel Vasgird
  Columbia Univ.
- *Active Learning Online on Responsible Mentoring and Collaboration*
  Murali Krishnamurthi
  Northern Illinois Univ.
- *Mentoring International Postdocs: Working Together to Advance Science and Careers*
  Wendy Williams
  Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- *RCR Educational Program for Administrative Staff Members*
  Stephen Erickson
  Boston College
- *Basic Training in Research Design Concepts for Novice Research Staff*
  Camille Nebeker
  San Diego State Univ.
- *Assessment Tools for Evaluating University RCR Programs*
  Lynne Olson
  Ohio State Univ.
- *Development of a Web-based Statistical Evaluation Tool*
  Min Qi Wang
  Univ. of Maryland
- *Teaching RCR with Humans (RCRH)*
  Stanley Korenman
  UCLA

Register for RCR Expo By August 31, 2004

Institutions and organizations interested in exhibiting their RCR instructional materials or programs during the second RCR Expo must register with ORI by August 31, 2004, due to limited space.

The RCR Expo will be held October 25-26 in the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society of Research Administrators (SRA) International attended by more than 1,400 research administrators.

ORI will provide 25 free spaces to qualified exhibitors. Besides floor space, exhibitors will be provided with a table, a chair, and electricity at no cost, but they will have to furnish their own computers, projectors and other display technology. No special security will be provided, so exhibitors will have to monitor their own displays. ORI-supported projects and academic exhibitors will be given first priority.

Exhibits may focus on one or more of the RCR core areas or on other areas deemed related to responsible conduct. Products related to the administration of RCR programs are included, such as train the trainer programs and databases for tracking completion of instruction.

See Register on page 7

RCR Awards Made To 5 Academic Societies

Five academic societies received awards from the RCR Program for Academic Societies to support the development of infrastructure, activities, and educational programs that promote the responsible conduct of research (RCR).

The program is a collaborative effort of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and ORI. The program which has been extended through FY 2007 provides funding up to $50,000 depending on the type and scale of the proposed project.

Of special interest are projects focused on developing guidelines, standards, policies, publications, committees, special interest sections, core competencies, curricula, and other resources related to the core RCR components—data management, mentoring, authorship and publication practices, peer review, collaborative research, human subjects, animal welfare, research misconduct, and conflicts of interest and commitment.

Eleven applications were received by the March 19, 2004, deadline. The funding rate was 45 percent. Applications were reviewed by outside reviewers and AAMC and ORI staff.

In its first 2 years, the program made awards to 17 academic societies. Abstracts of funded projects are available on the ORI web site at **http://ori.dhhs.gov/html/programs/rcr_requirements.asp**.

Submission deadlines for the third round are November 5, 2004, and March 4, 2005. See request for applications at **http://www.aamc.org/programs/ori/**. For further information contact Anthony Mazzaschi at tmazzaschi@aamc.org or at 202-828-0059.

Academic society and project title are:

- Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. *Research Integrity in Emergency Medicine.*

See Societies' on page 5

Michigan Undergrads Create Research Journal

Anticipatory socialization of undergraduate researchers took a step forward at the University of Michigan earlier this year with the publication of the initial issue of a refereed journal containing research that students had worked on with faculty members.

According to its constitution, the mission of the *Undergraduate Research Forum (URF)* "is to inspire interest in research through the publication of a non-technical, peer and faculty reviewed journal that will include articles from all fields of research in the natural sciences, engineering, the social sciences and the humanities."

The 48-page first edition contains articles on prostate cancer genetics, variations in the academic ability of children, traumatic brain injury, the brain's response to chronic stress and the controversy surrounding the International Criminal Court, letters to the editor, and a news and review section.

Manuscripts are submitted electronically and must be accompanied by author and mentor agreement forms that certify the originality of the work and appropriate citations. Names of the student authors and mentors are published. Manuscripts must be accepted by both student and faculty review boards.

The student-run *URF* is published annually, but a semi-annual schedule may be considered if a sufficient number of publishable manuscripts are available. Solicited advertising will supplement support by on-campus programs.

About 2,500-3,500 copies of the first issue were distributed on campus to residence halls, libraries, academic departments, and the commons. Copies will be sent to libraries at other universities upon request and to local high schools. The *URF* is available on-line at http://www.umich.edu/~umforum/.

Other institutions that have undergraduate research journals are CalTech, Cornell, Dartmouth, M.I.T, Rochester, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, UC-Irvine, and UT-Austin.

Schwetz Named OHRP Director

Bernard Schwetz, D.V.M, Ph.D, was named Director of the Office for Human Research Protections on April 2, 2004, after serving as Acting Director since February 1, 2003.

Tommy Thompson, HHS Secretary, said, "Human subject protections within the clinical research enterprise will benefit from his strong and positive leadership."

Schwetz previously served as Acting Commissioner and Senior Advisor for Science at the Food and Drug Administration, where he also chaired the institutional review board. He also served on the faculty at the University of Maryland-College Park.

ORI Adds Third Educational Specialist

ORI has added an educational specialist who has more than 10 years experience in training and organizational development to its Division of Education and Integrity to further the development of its educational programs in the responsible conduct of research (RCR).

James L. Egbert, who joined ORI in April, previously served as Director of Training and Development at a health provider organization and as a Master Instructor in the U.S. Air Force.

As webmaster of the expanding ORI web site, Egbert will focus on developing an RCR portal that will make the products of the RCR Resource Development Program and other instructional materials readily available. He will also develop new instructional and other materials for the web site.

Egbert holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Authorship is double-edged: Fame and Blame

Proposals Invited on Mentoring, Compliance, Collaborative Research

ORI is inviting proposals from institutions that would like to work with ORI in organizing conferences on collaborative research, mentoring, or compliance programs which support research integrity in calendar year 2005 or 2006.

ORI also invites institutions in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest to submit conference proposals on topics related to research misconduct, the responsible conduct of research or research integrity in an effort to provide more geographic dispersal for its conference program.

Institutions would be responsible for arranging meeting space and lodging, drafting an agenda, suggesting speakers, creating a conference web site, assisting with marketing, developing a conference notebook, creating a list of attendees, and other matters. Instructions for preparing proposals are at **http://ori.dhhs.gov/html/programs/conf-workshops.asp**.

ORI would provide up to $20,000 to co-sponsoring institutions to help defray expenses. A registration fee would cover the cost of food, beverages, and materials distributed at the meeting. Interested institutions should contact Dr. Carolyn Fassi at cfassi@osophs.dhhs.gov or 301-443-5300.

Conferences - 2004

October 14-15: Research Integrity and Financial Conflicts of Interest in Clinical Research - Legal Issues and Regulatory Requirements, Charlottesville, VA

October 23-27: RCR Expo, Salt Lake City, UT

November 12-14: ORI Research Conference on Research Integrity, San Diego, CA

December 2-3: Developing Policy on Institutional Conflict of Interest, Las Vegas, NV

ICOI Conference to Address Practical Steps

The operational elements that should be incorporated into policies on institutional conflict of interest will be discussed and defined in a conference at the Alexis Park hotel in Las Vegas on December 2-3, 2004, co-organized by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) and ORI.

The conference, *Developing Policy on Institutional Conflict of Interest*, will focus on defining concrete steps that need to be taken in such policy development by attempting to create guidelines or templates for action. See conference web site on the ORI home page for program, registration and reservation information.

"The management of individual conflicts of interest is relatively simple when contrasted with the difficulties universities face when developing policy to address the issues inherent in *institutional* conflict," Stephen Rice, Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development, UNLV, said. "The reason for the added complexity is that senior institutional officials, their governing boards and foundation trustees should be involved in the process. And, questions of who discloses what information to whom are sensitive both politically and commercially."

Focus groups will be used throughout the conference to facilitate discussion on issues and strategies related to the following topics: trustees/regents, technology transfer, compliance, foundation/development; external reviewers; disclosure, and management.

Plenary sessions will address issues and challenges related to components of definition, practical hurdles and sensitive issues related to policy development and implementation; Federal perspectives on institutional environment and responsible conduct of research; and perspectives from stakeholders within the university on institutional readiness and success factors.

Over 70 Abstracts Submitted for Research Conference

Over 70 abstracts have been accepted for presentation as research papers or posters during the third bi-annual ORI Research Conference on Research Integrity that will be held at the Paradise Point Resort, San Diego, California, November 12-14, 2004.

Research will be reported on misconduct and questionable research practices, authorship and publication issues, conflicts of interest, data management and data sharing, the influence of the research environment on research behavior, human-subjects research (IRBs, informed consent, and clinical trials), mentoring and responsible conduct of research education.

Several presentations will report findings from the NIH/ORI Research on Research Integrity Program (RRI), which gave its first awards in 2001. A growing body of international research on research integrity will also be represented.

"We plan to make a concerted effort this year," notes conference co-chair Nick Steneck, "to organize working groups around key topic areas. RRI is still not a recognized field of research, but a research community is beginning to develop. If this Conference has any focus, it will be around ways to further RRI and to bring it to the attention of policymakers in government, research institutions, professional societies, and elsewhere."

Negotiating Contracts For Clinical Trials

A document designed to aid academic institutions in negotiating intellectual property, publication rights, payment for adverse consequences, and indemnification provisions in clinical trial contracts with pharmaceutical companies has been published by the AAMC.

Clinical Trial Contracts: A Discussion of Four Selected Provisions, provides explanation of academic and industry perspectives, checklists, and sample contract language. Go to http://www.aamc.org/publications/clinicaltrial.htm.

The University of California San Diego School of Medicine is co-sponsoring and hosting the conference. Other co-sponsors are the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Merck Research Laboratories.

Full conference registration for 3 days including most meals, lodging, and registration is $480. Day rates, partial rates, and Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit are also available. For the draft program and registration information, check the conference web site available on the ORI home page at **http://ori.hhs.gov**.

Societies' Awards **(from page 3)**

- Research and Assessment Corporation for Counseling, Inc. *Proactive Promotion of Research Integrity within the Field of Counselor Education.*
- The Gerontological Society of America. *Guidebook for Multidisciplinary Clinical Geriatric Research.*
- American Occupational Therapy Foundation/American Occupational Therapy Association. *Promoting Research Integrity in the Next Generation of Occupational Therapy Researchers.*
- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine/North American Primary Care Research Group. *Primary Care Research Participant Protection Project.*

Research on Research Integrity RFA Available

The new request for applications (RFA) for the Research on Research Integrity Program focuses on three areas of interest: standards for responsible conduct of research, self-regulation of the research community, and factors that enhance or undermine research integrity. Submission deadline is November 19, 2004. See RFA on the ORI home page at **http://ori.hhs.gov**.

Misconduct Regulation Being Revised

The proposed revision of the 1989 regulation on the handling of research misconduct allegations involving PHS supported research contains changes affecting the definition of research misconduct, PHS jurisdiction, institutional and HHS responsibilities, and other matters.

The notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) was published in the *Federal Register* on April 16, 2004. Further revision of the proposed regulation may occur before the final rule is published because of comments received during the 60-day comment period scheduled to end on June 15, 2004. The proposed revised regulation is available on the ORI home page at **http://ori.hhs.gov**.

The revisions are based on the report of the HHS Work Group on Research Misconduct and Research Integrity at **http://ori.dhhs.gov/html/policies/phspolicies.asp** The Federal Research Misconduct Policy at **http://ori.dhhs.gov/html/policies fed_research_misconduct.asp** and experience with the existing regulation since 1989.

APPLICABILITY

Scope: The proposed regulation expands jurisdiction to cover intramural as well as extramural research or research training programs or related activities in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, contracts and other forms of PHS support as well as grants and cooperative agreements.

Definition of research misconduct: Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. This definition adds "reviewing research" and deletes the "other practices" clause. The proposed regulation also defines fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism, and establishes three criteria for making a finding of research misconduct.

Time limitation: The alleged research misconduct must have occurred within 6 years of the date the allegation is reported to an institution or HHS. Four exceptions are noted to this limitation.

Burden of proof: The institution or HHS has the burden of proof for making a finding of research misconduct. The absence of, or respondent's failure to provide, research records adequately documenting the questioned research establishes a rebuttable presumption of research misconduct that may be relied upon by the institution or HHS in proving research misconduct. Credible evidence corroborating the research or providing a reasonable explanation for the absence of, or respondent's failure to provide, the research records may be used by the respondent to rebut this presumption.

Once the institution or HHS makes a prima facie showing of research misconduct, the respondent has the burden of proving any affirmative defenses raised, including any honest error or differences of opinion, and of proving any mitigating factors that the respondent wants the institution or HHS to consider in imposing administrative actions.

Standard of proof: An institutional or HHS finding of research misconduct must be established by a preponderance of the evidence. The current regulation does not state a standard of proof.

DEFINITIONS

Allegations: An allegation may be made by written or oral statement or other communication to an institutional or HHS official. The current regulation does not state how an allegation may be communicated to appropriate authorities.

Good faith: Means having a belief in the truth of one's allegation or testimony that a reasonable person in the complainant's or witness's position could have based on the information known to the complainant or witness at the time. An allegation or cooperation with a research misconduct proceeding is not in good faith if made with knowing or reckless disregard for information that would negate the allegation or testimony. Good faith is not defined in the current regulation.

Retaliation: Means an adverse action taken against a complainant, witness, or committee member by an institution or one of its members in response to (a) a good faith allegation of research misconduct; or (b) good faith cooperation with a research misconduct proceeding. Previously, protection from retaliation was limited to complainants or whistleblowers.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Custody of research records and evidence: The institution must, either before or when the institution notifies the respondent of the allegation, inquiry or investigation, promptly take all reasonable and practical efforts to obtain custody of all the research records and evidence needed to conduct the research misconduct proceeding, inventory the records and evidence, and sequester them in a secure manner. Additional provisions cover access to the research records by the respondent, taking custody of additional research records and evidence as they become available, and retention of the same. This is consistent with the current practice.

Records of misconduct proceedings: Institutions must maintain records of research misconduct proceedings in a secure manner for 7 years after their completion or the completion of any PHS proceeding involving the research misconduct allegations. No timeframe was previously provided.

Status of Complainant: Clarifies that the complainant is not a party to the misconduct proceeding, but rather acts as a witness after the allegation is made.

HHS RESPONSIBILITIES

Research misconduct findings: The Assistant Secretary for Health will make the final decision on research misconduct findings.

See Proposed on page 7

Case Summary

Vickie L. Hanneken, R.N., Decatur Memorial Hospital (DMH): Based on the DMH investigation report and additional analysis conducted by the Office of Research Integrity in its oversight review, PHS found that Vickie L. Hanneken, R.N., former Clinical Research Associate, DMH, engaged in scientific misconduct in research that was part of a Southwest Oncology Group prostate cancer prevention clinical trial supported by a National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), cooperative agreement U10 CA45807 under the Central Illinois Clinical Community Oncology Program. PHS found that Ms. Hanneken engaged in scientific misconduct by falsifying or fabricating data in the clinical/study records of 35 participants in the Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial (SELECT) at Decatur Memorial Hospital, with a total of 60 separate acts, which included:

- falsification of the laboratory reports on PSA concentration for 12 participants;
- fabrication of the laboratory reports on PSA concentration for 2 participants;
- falsification of the physician's and nurse's records for 10 participants;
- fabrication of the nurse's records for 2 participants;
- falsification of data on patients' history and physical forms for 21 participants; and
- entry of falsified data into the SWOG computerized data base for 13 participants.

No publications were affected, and all false data were removed from the database or corrected.

Ms. Hanneken entered into a Voluntary Exclusion Agreement in which she voluntarily agreed for 3 years, beginning on March 15, 2004: (1) to exclude herself from any contracting or subcontracting with any agency of the U.S. Government and from eligibility or involvement in nonprocurement programs of the U.S. Government as defined in the debarment regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 76; and (2) to exclude herself from serving in any advisory capacity to PHS.

Proposed Reg Changes (from page 6)

Inquiries/investigations: The conduct of inquiries and/or investigations by the Federal Government will be conducted by the Office of Inspector General upon the recommendation of ORI. Previously, ORI conducted inquiries and/or investigations for the Federal Government.

Administrative actions: The list of administrative actions that may be imposed on individuals found to have committed research misconduct is expanded. Institutions are given responsibility for implementing the administrative actions.

Appeal Process: A new, more formal hearing process is proposed that would be run through the Departmental Appeals Board using Administrative Law Judges to conduct the hearing and make recommended findings and conclusions.

Research Environment

"Several sociological analyses of selected professions . . . have concluded that the most significant determinant of compliance with professional norms is the social setting of professional practice. In keeping with this finding, there is a real need for scientific institutions to address the social environment of their faculty, staff, and students and to identify organizational elements, incentives, and barriers that shape their understanding of, and adherence to, responsible research standards." *The Responsible Conduct of Research in the Health Sciences,* p. 33, IOM, 1989.

Danish Committee Closes Controversial Case

A controversial research misconduct case in Denmark was closed last March when the Danish Committee on Scientific Dishonesty (DCSD) decided not to resume its investigation against a social scientist after its original finding was overturned by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MSTI), according to a report on the DCSD web site.

The case involved the publication of *The Skeptical Environmentalist* written by Bjorn Lomborg and published by the Cambridge University Press in 2001. In January 2003, the DCSD decided that "the book was based on a systematically biased choice of data" and the author "had clearly acted contrary to good scientific practice."

In December 2003, the MSTI invalidated the finding because the DCSD has no mandate to rule on the failure to follow good scientific practice, did not provide adequate documentation to substantiate its ruling or its jurisdiction, may not have had the competence to investigate the complaint, may have inappropriately applied health science standards to the social sciences, publicly disclosed its finding before receiving comment from the respondent and other procedural errors. The MSTI did not evaluate the book for scientific merit.

The director of the Danish Research Agency established a Working Group on Scientific Dishonesty in January 2003 to evaluate the need to adjust the regulatory basis of the DCSD. Its report is pending.

Register for Expo on ORI Home Page (from page 3)

The RCR core areas are (1) data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership; (2) mentor/trainee responsibilities; (3) publication practices and responsible authorship; (4) peer review; (5) collaborative science; (6) human subjects; (7) research involving animals; (8) research misconduct, and (9) conflicts of interest and commitment.

Registration information is available on the ORI home page at **http://ori.hhs.gov**. Contact Loc Nguyen-Khoa at Lnguyen-Khoa@osophs.dhhs.gov or 301-443-5300. For more information about the SRA International annual meeting, visit http://www.srainternational.org

Conference, Workshop, and Meeting Proposals Due October 1, 2004

ORI is seeking proposals from institutions, scientific societies, and professional associations that wish to collaborate with ORI in developing conferences, workshops, symposia, colloquiums, seminars, and annual meeting sessions that address the responsible conduct of research, research integrity, or research misconduct. ORI will provide up to $20,000, depending on the event proposed.

The next target date for receipt of applications is **October 1, 2004**. Proposal instructions and an application form are available on the ORI web site at http://ori.dhhs.gov/html/programs/ conf-workshops.asp. Please submit your proposal electronically to cfassi@osophs.dhhs.gov. Dr. Carolyn Fassi may be reached at 301-443-5300.

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