

RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2001

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Instruction

The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has posted on its Web site its final policy concerning education requirements in the responsible conduct of research for personnel on Public Health Service (PHS) grants. The ORI will require the completion of "a basic program of instruction in the responsible conduct of research" in nine core areas determined by the Public Health Service (PHS). The nine key core instructional areas are:

- Data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership
- Mentor/trainee responsibilities
- Publication practices and a responsible authorship
- Peer review
- Collaborative science
- Human subjects
- Research involving animals
- Research misconduct
- Conflict of interest and commitment

The policy defines the "research staff" working on PHS-supported projects who are covered by the policy as "staff at the institution who have direct and substantive involvement in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research," and allows institutions to make "reasonable determinations regarding which research staff fall within this definition."

Affected institutions must have written descriptions of their proposed programs of instruction available to the ORI by Oct. 1, 2001, and must complete their implementation of the programs for existing staff by Oct. 1, 2003. You may view the final ORI policy on the Web at <http://ori.dhhs.gov/html/programs/rcrcontents.asp>. This page also contains links to frequently asked questions and information on instructional resources.

In response to this policy, Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP), lead by Assistant Dean Lois Brako, has identified four key issues and proposed an action plan.

Issues to resolve:

- Who will we include in our definition of research staff?
- What format/s will we use for the instructional program?
- Which core areas will be required of all research staff?
- How will we document that instruction has occurred?

Proposed Action Plan:

- Develop leadership team for core area content
- Create standard format for computer-based instruction
- Develop RCR Guidance documents (web sites)
- Document campus policies and instructional program

Proposed Tuition Remission Surcharge

The University is facing a significant and escalating tuition shortfall resulting from the elimination of the tuition remission surcharge in 1996. Factors contributing to this shortfall are:

- increased number of funded Graduate Assistants;
- increased graduate tuition since 1996; and
- change in Graduate Assistant distribution from resident to non-resident and dissertator to non-dissertator.

The shortfall in 2000-01 is \$15.4M. Schools, colleges and divisions will face an additional \$11.5M shortfall in FY2002 because other resources are depleted.

To remedy the situation, the Graduate School has recommended that all gifts and grants supporting graduate student stipends be charged a tuition remission surcharge effective July 1, 2001. In addition, the Graduate School recommends distributing the remainder of the costs to schools and colleges based on the number of funded students generating the costs. This issue is being discussed at the Deans' level.

Dean of the Graduate School Virginia Hinshaw has prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the subject that can be viewed on the Internet at:

<http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/infotech/tuitionremission/>.

Federal Financial Disclosure Reminder

It is almost time for the next round of State Outside Activity and Federal Financial Disclosure reporting. However, there are still some researchers who have not submitted their forms. According to University regulations, anyone who is responsible, as a principal investigator or otherwise, for the design, conduct or reporting of federally funded research must file a Federal Financial Disclosure. The Graduate School has run a program to match investigators on federally funded projects with the Financial Disclosure database. They are prepared to suspend spending on accounts if the investigator has not filed. If you have not completed a form for 2000-2001, do so immediately. When you receive your forms for 2001, be prepared to complete and submit them by the deadline. Chairs are strongly encouraged to process these forms immediately upon receipt. Guidelines will be available on the Research and Graduate Studies web site at: http://research.med.wisc.edu/research/research/research_index.html

National Cancer Institute Course on Human Subjects Protection

The National Cancer Institute has developed for NIH a new Web-based course on the protection of human participants in research. The course offers CME credit for physicians and contact hours for nurses and other members of research teams, responding to the mandate requiring education in human research protection for all investigators who apply for or receive NIH funds for research involving people. Titled "Human Participant Protections Education for Research Teams," the course incorporates interactive modules, case studies, and exercises. It offers up to two hours of category I credit of the Physicians Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. The course can be accessed at <http://cme.nci.nih.gov>.

This course may be taken in addition to the on-line training required by the university.