

Responsible Conduct of Research Ethics Course Spring 2018
For Postdoctoral and Research Fellows GAH: 601A Session 000
For Faculty Researchers GAH: 601A Session 001

The Responsible Conduct of Research Ethics Course is designed specifically for Postdoctoral and Research Fellows and early career biomedical scientific researchers. This course was designed with the advice of expert faculty, national guidelines for ethics training, the Emory Ethics Center, and Postdoctoral Fellow recommendations to assure its relevance to these trainees now and early career researchers in their future. The course informs of ethical principles and policies relevant to the conduct of research through readings, creation of case studies, and class discussions. The Background Information on each topic is read prior to the one-hour class discussions of case studies submitted by the Postdocs and Fellows. The case study discussions are led by faculty facilitators. The Background information on each topic is sent as an attachment to an email to course registrants. The discussions of case studies explore methods for acceptable ethical resolution of the case study problems. Postdocs, Research Fellows, and early career researchers are the future leaders of the world's scientific research enterprise and it is hoped the course will help them govern now and in the future with the ethical guidelines required in the responsible conduct of research.

Course Director: Mary J. DeLong, Ph.D.
Office of Postdoctoral Education

Acknowledgements for Contributions to this Course

We wish to thank the following for providing educational materials for this course and permission to use them as needed: Dr. Ruth Fischbach, Professor of Bioethics and Co-founder of the Center for Bioethics at the Columbia University College of Surgeons. Dr. Fischbach's on-line Columbia University course served as a model structure for the present on-line component of this course. Drs. John Banja, Director of the Ethics Program and Arri Eisen, Ethics Center Emory University suggested expert faculty and their example case studies have been invaluable as well as their shared experiences from directing other Ethics courses. We also thank the Emory faculty who contribute time and expertise to lead the case study discussions. The valuable website of the Office of Research Integrity, US Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Wisconsin, Responsible Conduct of Research Course served as important sources of information for this course.

Structure of the Course:

Each Background Information document is sent two weeks prior to the class for reading prior to case study creation and class discussions. It is sent as an attachment to an email. For each topic in the course, the Background Information documents include the sections below:

A. Background Information Documents on Each Topic in the Course

1. Introduction to the topic and importance in research
2. Historical perspective of the importance of the topic
3. Relevant national and Emory University Guidelines and Policies
4. Example Case Studies with guide questions on the topic that can be used as examples to construct a case study for assignment submission. The examples of real or created scenarios illustrate the ethical principles involved in each topic.
5. Links to additional literature and resources on the topic

1B. Required Assignments for GAH: 601A Session 000

1. Reading of the Background Information documents and prior to class discussions; and
2. Submission of a Case Study for assigned topics with three discussion questions on each of the two topics to be discussed one week before the class. The case study should be submitted as an attachment to an email sent to Mary.delong@emory.edu by the dates indicated below. Selected case studies with no identifiers are used in class discussions.
3. Completion of the multiple choice course review questions by the last day of class.

2B. Required Items for Ethics GAH: 601A Session 001

1. Reading of the Background Information documents prior to class discussions
2. Attendance at all four class sessions for discussions of the eight topics.
3. Two one-hour discussions on each topic of 1) Responsible Authorship and Review and 2) Data Ownership and Management with a graduate student(s) or Postdoc(s) using case studies and/or policies. A summary of each of the two mentoring/teaching sessions (~200 words each) is to be signed by the faculty person and trainee and to be submitted by the end of the course on November 6.
4. Completion of the multiple choice course review questions by the last day of class.

Important Note: To receive a certificate and verification from the Office of the Postdoctoral Education the Ethics course was taken and completed as required by NIH, Postdocs and Medical Fellows are required to 1) Submit required case study assignments, and 2) attend ALL discussion sessions, and 3) Submit the completed Final Course Review. If travel to a national science meeting interferes with class attendance for a case study discussion class, please contact Mary DeLong to develop a substitute for the missed session. Only one class discussion session can be missed to receive the certificate for the course. For those who successfully completed the course, the Office of Postdoctoral Education will provide a description of the course that can be used in fellowship and grant applications.

C. Required Eight Classroom Discussion Sessions facilitated by faculty

Topic Discussed in Class	Discussion Date and Room in the SOM	Time
Mentor and Postdoc Relationship	January 24, Wednesday Rooms 178P and 190P	2:45 – 3:45pm
Responsible Authorship & Review	January 24, Wednesday Rooms 178P and 190P	3:55 – 4:55pm
Data Acquisition and Management	February 7, Wednesday Rooms 178P and 190P	2:45- 3:45pm
Research Misconduct	February 7, Wednesday Rooms 178P and 190P	3:55– 4:55pm
Conflict of Interest	February 28, Wednesday Rooms 170A and 190P	2:45 – 3:45pm
Collaborative and Team Science	February 28, Wednesday Rooms 170A and 190P	3:55 – 4:55pm
Use of Human Subjects in Research	March 14, Wednesday Rooms 178P and 190P	2:45-3:45pm
Use of Animals in Research	March 14, Wednesday Rooms 178P and 190P	3:55-4:55pm
Final Course Review Due	March 14, Wednesday	

Course Objectives:

- To inform Postdoctoral and Medical Fellows and early career researchers of the national and university principles, laws and policies that guide the ethical conduct of research at Emory and nationally and facilitate understanding of these policies
- To increase the awareness in application of these ethical principles and policies in present and future research efforts.
- To encourage the use these guiding principles in planning future careers.
- To expand the understanding of the broad complexity of ethical problems and their resolution through discussions of these principles with expert and experienced faculty

11-14-17