



September 29, 2011

Postdoctoral Associates & Fellows
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Subject: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training and Academic Integrity
Standards at MIT

Dear MIT Postdocs:

I hope you all had good and productive summers and that your research is going well. I am writing to tell you about our on-line tool for learning about the standards and practices for research integrity at MIT. I strongly encourage all researchers at MIT to take this training. In fact, all MIT undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers supported on NSF research awards are required to do so. The Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) course can be found here: <http://osp.mit.edu/compliance/rcr>. (Going through this MIT link for the CITI course will ensure that your course completion is properly recorded in MIT's central records, and will give you important background information.)

As you will see, you will be asked to select the RCR module that is most relevant to your discipline: Biomedical Sciences; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Physical Sciences; Humanities; Engineering; or Administration. I can assure you that taking the course will be worth your time, and you can do parts of it at a time and then come back to it. Some of the many relevant topics are data acquisition and management, responsible authorship and allocation of credit, peer review, mentoring, conflicts of interest, and collaborative research. There are many pertinent case studies that will help prepare you to deal with situations that can arise.

You can always log back in to view or complete the course or to print a completion report. Just reenter through <http://osp.mit.edu/compliance/rcr>. To view the course contents after completion, look below the "My Courses" section and click on the "Optional Modules" link under "Massachusetts Institute of Technology Learner Utilities."

Another excellent resource is the National Academy of Sciences publication, video, and podcast, *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research* (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192). *Academic Integrity at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: a Handbook for Students* (<http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/>) is another helpful resource, and details how to properly cite materials, paraphrase and quote.

Please do not hesitate to contact your faculty sponsor if you have any questions or situations dealing with academic integrity. Michelle Christy (mchristy@MIT.EDU), Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), is also available to answer questions about conflict of interest related to sponsored projects. The MIT Ombuds Office (<http://web.mit.edu/ombud/>) can answer questions and provide assistance in resolving disputes and managing conflicts as well.

I wish you all the very best.

Sincerely yours,



Claude R. Canizares