# G. TRAINING IN THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

I have had a long history of demonstrating responsible conduct of research. During current graduate training in the Master of Science in Clinical Research at Emory University, I had the opportunity to attend IRB meetings to gain exposure to ethical standards in clinical research. As part of that training, and in order to conduct my own research, I completed the CITI (Collaborative IRB Training Initiative) Program with a focus on human subject protection. I also completed training in ethical research standards through the CITI Program. Additionally, I will complete an established course for postdoctoral fellows, Responsible Conduct of Research Ethics (GAH: 601A), under the direction of Mary J. DeLong, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Education. This course covers the areas of instruction in the ethics of scientific research that are mandated by the NIH for its National Research Service Award trainees. Topics addressed are: Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing and Ownership; Collaborative Research and Team Science; Conflict of Interest; Human Subject Research; Animal Welfare in Research; Mentor and Postdoctoral Fellow Responsibilities; Publication Practices, Responsible Authorship, and Peer Review; and Research Misconduct. The course consists of 8 hours of formal classroom work as well as approximately 8-10 hours of monitored self-study and case studies. The course has an on-line section that can be read and accessed at any time followed by one-hour classroom group discussions of each topic with faculty facilitators. On-line resources include readings about the basic concepts as well as about relevant Emory and national policies; two case studies related to each topic; questions on key issues within the topic to be answered by the trainees prior to attending on-site sessions; and guide questions to be used in discussion of case studies for on-site sessions. Classroom discussions address case studies or research scenarios requiring use of ethical principles and policies for acceptable resolution. The course occurs over a period of 6-8 weeks. It is offered twice a year and is mandatory for all trainees with federal funding.

Ethical issues are addressed using a combination of small and large group discussions, case studies and simulations. Discussions include the historical context of ethics in science, concrete moral reasoning strategies, case studies, personal reflection on past experiences, and Emory and national policies. Prior to day one of the course, participants are required to read and be prepared to discuss the Declaration of Helsinki, the Nuremberg Code, and the Belmont Report. Throughout the course, additional supplemental materials are provided to the trainees. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. The course objectives are: 1) to inform postdoctoral fellows of the national and university principles and policies that guide the ethical conduct of research and facilitate their understanding of these policies; 2) to increase the awareness of postdoctoral fellows of how these principles and policies are applied in decisions in everyday research; 3) to have postdocs use these guiding principles in planning their future research and careers; 4) to foster postdoc discussions of these principles with expert faculty to expand their understanding of complex ethical issues.

The program is based on the online course designed by Dr. Ruth Fischbach, Professor of Bioethics and Co-founder of the Center for Bioethics at the Columbia University College of Surgeons. She produced the NIH site, Bioethics Resources on the Web. Drs. John Banja, Director of the Ethics Program and Arri Eisen, Ethics Center Emory University facilitate the recruitment of Emory investigators to the program (they oversee the PSI course the graduate students take). The online part of the course is available at the Emory University Blackboard website under the Office of Postdoctoral Education. Below is a recent schedule for the required eight classroom sections that are faculty-led class discussions of assigned case studies for each topic.

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| **Topic and Discussion Facilitators** | **Discussion Date, Room SOM** | **Time** |
| Mentor and Postdoc Relationship | Jan 21, Wednesday, Room 170A | 2:45p – 3:45p |
| Responsible Authorship & Review | Jan 21, Wednesday, Room 170A | 3:55p – 4:45p |
| Data Acquisition and Management | Feb 4, Wednesday, Room 170A | 2:45p – 3:45p |
| Research Misconduct | Feb 4, Wednesday, Room 170A | 3:55p – 4:45p |
| Collaborative and Team Science | Feb 12, Thursday, Room 153A | 2:45p – 3:45p |
| Use of Human Subjects in Research | Feb 12, Thursday, Room 153A | 3:55p – 4:45p |
| Conflict of Interest | Feb 25, Wednesday, Room 110 | 2:45p – 3:45p |
| Use of Animals in Research | Feb 25, Wednesday, Room 110 | 3:55p – 4:45p |