PHIL 6000H1, H2, and H3: Responsible Conduct of Research - Summer Semester 2012

Instructor: Dr. Michael Hoffmann   **E-mail**: m.hoffmann@gatech.edu
Meeting days: June 4th to 8th (details in T-Square)
Location: Van Leer C240 or E261 (details in T-Square)
Office Location: DM Smith 004   **Phone Number**: (404) 385-6083
Office Hours: before and after class

Course Background: The primary aim of this course is to identify and discuss ethical challenges that graduate students confront relating to their research. Topics addressed include those recognized by NIH, NSF, and Georgia Tech as crucial to being a responsible researcher. This course helps to satisfy Georgia Tech RCR policy's requirements for "in-person" training (note: laboratory safety is not covered in this course).

* If you need to complete RCR online training, the website is:
http://www.gradadmiss.gatech.edu/responsible_conduct.php

Format: The course will primarily consist of a series of short lectures on issues in the realm of research ethics. Additionally, there will be group work and group presentations.

Required Readings: Presentation slides will be available on T-square prior to the beginning of the course. Included in the slides are articles and case studies that will be discussed in the course.

Course Requirements: The course is for one credit and may be taken on a pass/fail basis only.
(1.) To receive a passing grade, **you must attend the entire course**. If you have to miss a class, you must contact the instructor *prior to the day of the absence* (unless the absence is due to illness) so that the instructor can determine whether it will be considered excused. If an absence is considered excused by the instructor, you must provide proper documentation within one week (for example, a physician's note for an illness). You will have to write make-up paper(s) for any class time that is missed.
(2.) You have to submit one **essay** about a RCR case or article via T-Square under "Assignments." The essay is **due June 20th**. It should be approximately 2 to 3 pages, double-spaced. Write your name on top of the paper, save the document either in Word, pdf, or StarOffice, and submit it in T-Square as an attachment to your assignment. A list of topics will be posted on T-Square under "Resources." In order to pass, the essay must include the following elements:
   (a) an explanation of the topic in your own words,
   (b) the identification of the main ethical issue(s)
   (c) a discussion of these ethical issues based on the lecture slides that you can find on T-Square in "Resources"
   (d) a distinction of various stakeholder perspectives, and
   (e) a proposed solution to the ethical issues

Academic Integrity: You are expected to uphold Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code. This requires that you familiarize yourself with the rights and responsibilities contained within the policy. Remember, plagiarism in any form is not acceptable. If you have any questions or concerns about the Academic Honor Code, please consult with the instructor or refer to http://www.honor.gatech.edu.

* The syllabus provides a general framework for the course; on rare occasions, changes may become necessary.

** If you have any learning disabilities, contact the ADAPTS office at (404) 894-2564, refer to http://www.adapts.gatech.edu, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

*** If you have any personal or academic difficulties, contact the Counseling Center at (404) 894-2575, refer to http://www.counseling.gatech.edu, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

Course Schedule and Topics

- **Monday, June 4th:**
  Introduction, Ethical Concepts, and Professionalism
  Mentoring and Collaborative Research

- **Tuesday, June 5th:**
  Data Management
  Conflict of Interest and Commitment

- **Wednesday, June 6th:**
  Authorship and Publication
  Peer Review

- **Thursday, June 7th:**
  Animal Subjects Research
  Human Subjects Research

- **Friday, June 8th:**
  Research Misconduct
  Science and Engineering in Society
  Concluding Thoughts and Surveys