Report on Efforts to Develop a Global Clearinghouse for Research Integrity

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From Principles to Practice: How European Research Organizations implement research integrity guidelines
Madrid, CSIC Headquarters
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How problems arise

- Situation:
  - New researcher joins a lab
  - Supervisor describes research, suggests problem to study

- Researcher’s response
  - Do some background reading
  - Talk with the postdoc/research staff to learn more
  - Get some training
  - Come up with an idea for how to solve
  - Run experiments, good results
  - Report to supervisor

- Supervisor’s response:
  - Good job, write up the results

Next steps:

- Write up paper
  
  Title: New researcher, Supervisor, Postdoc…
  Abstract
  Paper

- Supervisor approves, with a few corrections
  
  Title: Supervisor, Postdoc, New researcher
  Abstract
  Paper
What should the researcher do?
- Who sets the rules for authorship?
  - Laboratory or research institution?
  - Funding agency / country?
  - Journal / groups of journals?
  - Global agreements?
- When should authorship agreements be made?
  - When a researcher begins work in a new lab?
  - When a new project is started?
  - When a publication is being drafted?
- When & how should researchers learn about responsible publication practices?

Whose “responsible practices” apply?
- Research misconduct
  - To whom should suspected misconduct be reported?
  - Whose rules apply?
    - Place the work was done?
    - Employer?
- How should/are policy differences resolved?
  - Human and animal subjects
  - Data ownership, privacy, and management
  - Intellectual property and conflict of interest

current Situation
Responsible practices are complex

- Source of guidance:
  - International policies
  - National policies
  - Institutional policies
  - Professional codes
  - "Common practice"
  - Personal morality
- Shortcomings/problems:
  - Standards sometimes vague; not easy to find
  - RCR inconsistently taught

Researchers sometimes misbehave

- Researchers will confront misconduct & questionable behaviors
- Misconduct ~ 0.1% <-> 1%
- FFP ~ 5% <-> 50%
- RCR ~ 10% <-> 1%
- QRP ~ 10% <-> 50%
- High or highest standards ??

Situation in Europe

- Research teams spread across Europe
- Limited centralized integrity policies
- Decentralized RCR standards
- No required training
Where would a research look for guidance on research integrity questions?

A revolution for the detection of disease

A team of scientists at the University of Leeds in the UK has invented a biosensor device that can identify disease using nanotechnology. The device, which may revolutionise the science of diagnostics, uses antibodies to detect biomarkers, molecules that indicate a health problem. This is the first time that this method has been successfully applied in a real-world setting.
European focus

- Emphasis has been on ethics
  - Impact of research and scientific development on society
    - Ethical aspects of animal cloning for food supply
    - The ethics review of hESC FP7 research projects
    - Ethical aspects of nanomedicine
    - Ethical aspects of ICT Implants in the Human Body
- SHOULD researchers pursue ....?
- Weak centralized policy or discussion of integrity
- How researchers SHOULD behave!

Objective: Site & Strategy

- Global site for practical information on research integrity
  - Polices
  - Education
  - Cases
- Strategy
  - Bottom-up, “WIKI” approach
  - Information provided by country / institutional experts
  - Based initially on web-based database program
Organizational strategies

- What do researchers & students want to know?
  - How, where, and to whom to report concerns
  - How to find policies and best practices
  - Where to get answers to specific questions
- Easily searchable
  - Country
  - Policy area
  - Questions
- Easy to update and keep current

Development site

- www.researchintegrity.org
- Entry portal for:
  - Global Clearing House for Research Integrity (GC4RI)
  - ORI Introduction to RCR
- Other materials designed to foster integrity and deter misconduct in research
  - Currently hosted at www.umich.edu/~nsteneck
- Permanent hosting will require database server
  - Filemaker Pro

ORI Introduction currently on line

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Introduction to the Conduct Responsible in the Investigation of the ORI

ORI Introduction: A Fact Sheet

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GC4RI under development

- Two linked databases
  - Public
    - Read only
    - No password
  - Developer
    - Read/write
    - Password protected
- Developer database
  - Series of data collection pages

Contact information

Research misconduct policies, page 2
For More Information

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