

## RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

### Format

All trainees, fellows, and scholars receiving support from a NIH training grant (institutional or individual), career development award, fellowship, research education grant, or dissertation research grant are required to enroll in the Partners Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Program administered by the Partners Research Compliance Office. The Program consists of eight hours of face-to-face instruction and the CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) online, basic RCR course.

Trainees fulfill the face-to-face instruction requirement by attending a four-hour Partners RCR seminar and four additional hour-long hospital-based courses, lectures or discussion groups that are deemed "RCR eligible."

### Subject Matter

The four-hour Partners RCR seminar includes faculty presentations and discussions on authorship, data management, documentation and integrity; conflict of interest and interactions with industry; research misconduct; and post-award financial management. The seminar also includes an overview of basic regulatory and institutional requirements for research involving human subjects, stem cells, animals, and biohazards/recombinant DNA. The hospital-based courses/lectures/discussion group offerings also focus on these topics and more. For example, depending on the year and faculty availability, they include sessions on effective mentoring; ethical considerations in clinical research; safe lab practices; research subject privacy; peer review; humane and compliant use of animals in research; and collaborative science. While some of the hospital-based courses touch on ethical issues related to research with human subjects or animals, they are not the basic courses required of all researchers prior to working with human subjects or animals. Trainees/career awardees are not limited to RCR-eligible courses offered by their hospital; they may enroll in any RCR offering across the Partners HealthCare system.

To ensure that trainees and career awardees receive instruction in all of the topics identified by the NIH, they are also required to complete the online CITI basic RCR course for biomedical research.

### Faculty Participation

The Partners RCR seminar draws upon a roster of senior hospital/Harvard Medical School faculty who teach in the seminar on a revolving basis.

Some RCR seminar instructors also teach hospital-based courses (e.g., Drs. Dennis Brown (Director of Office Research Faculty Career Development), Karen K. Miller, MD, and Pearl O'Rourke, MD (Director of Human Research Affairs.) The remaining hospital-based courses are taught primarily by K-24 PIs in fulfillment of their RCR requirement and by hospital and Partners research faculty leadership (e.g., from Brigham and Women's hospital, Dr. Paul Anderson, Chief Academic Officer; from McLean Hospital, Dr. Shelly Greenfield, Chief Academic Officer and Dr. Scott Lukas, Research Training Grant Director; from Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Dennis Brown; and from Partners, Dr. Pearl O'Rourke, and Dr. Elizabeth Hohmann, IRB Medical Director.)

The Partners Healthcare Interim CEO and President and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Anne Klibanski, who is also Founder and Immediate Past Chief of the Neuroendocrine Unit at MGH and a T32 faculty member, provides guidance to the Partners Corporate Director of Research Compliance on curriculum development and faculty participation.

Partners RCR Seminars and Faculty include the following (2018-2019)

#### *Exorcising the Ghosts - Managing Problems with Coauthors*

Roland C. Merchant, MD, MPH, ScD, Member of the Faculty of Emergency Medicine, HMS; Physician, Brigham and Women's Hospital

### *Responsibilities of Mentors and Mentees*

Dennis Brown, PhD, Professor of Medicine, HMS; Director, Office for Research Career Development, Director, Program in Membrane Biology, and Associate Director, the Center for Systems Biology, MGH

### *Mock NIH Study Section*

Dennis Brown, PhD, Professor of Medicine, HMS; Director, Office for Research Career Development, Director, Program in Membrane Biology, and Associate Director, the Center for Systems Biology, MGH

Patricia D'Amore, PhD, MBA, Charles L. Schepens Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Pathology, HMS; and Director of Research, Schepens Eye Research Institute, MEEI

Nick Dyson, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Mary B. Saltonstall Chair in Oncology, HMS; Scientific Director of the Cancer Center, MGH; James and Shirley Curvey MGH Research Scholar

Jill Goldstein, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry, HMS; Executive Director of the Women, Heart and Brain Global Initiative, MGH

### *Rigor, Reproducibility and Transparency*

Dennis Brown, PhD, Professor of Medicine, HMS; Director, Office for Research Career Development, Director, Program in Membrane Biology, and Associate Director, the Center for Systems Biology, MGH

### *Data Management and Research Integrity*

Speakers: Gretchen Brodnicki, JD, Dean for Faculty and Research Integrity, HMS

Jessica Haberer MD, MS, Associate Professor of Medicine, HMS; Director of Research, MGH Center for Global Health

### *Responsible Authorship, Part I: Guidelines and Expectations*

Andrew T. Chan, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, HMS; Program Director, Gastroenterology Training Program, MGH; Chief, Clinical and Translational Epidemiology Unit; and the Stuart and Suzanne Steele MGH Research Scholar

### *Avoiding Conflict of Interest*

Udo Hoffman, MD, Professor of Radiology, HMS; Division Chief, Cardiovascular Imaging; and Director, Cardiac MR PET CT Program

### *Responsible Authorship, Part II: Case Studies*

Dennis Brown, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Office for Research Career Development

### *Responsibilities of Scientific Peer Reviewers*

Dennis Brown, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Office for Research Career Development;

[Partners RCR Eligible Lectures](#)

[Partners RCR Training Program](#)

[ORCD RCR Program](#)

### Duration of Instruction and Frequency

The basic Partners program requires eight hours of face-to-face instruction with an additional four to five hours for the online CITI course. The four-hour Partners seminar is offered three-times a year. New trainees/career awardees are required to enroll in the seminar within 12 months of their appointment to the training grant/receipt of career development award and must complete the full program within 12 months of attending the Partners seminar.

Trainees/career awardees may complete the online CITI course or enroll in hospital-based courses prior to attending the Partners seminar.

Additional RCR instruction is required of trainees/career awardees during their fourth year of NIH support. Since they will have already completed eight-hours of face-to-face instruction, they fulfill this requirement through completion of three modules, Collaborative Research, Peer Review and Research Misconduct, of the online CITI RCR Refresher Course. They may also attend any hospital-based, RCR-eligible course.

New trainees are required to complete the full PHS program within 12 months of their appointment to the training grant. Trainees in their fourth year will be required to attend two RCR-approved lecture/discussions to reinforce and supplement RCR training received during their first year. New trainees are required to complete the full PHS program within 12 months of their appointment to the training grant. The PHS program is supplemented on informal basis by endocrine faculty mentors.