UCLA Research & Creative Activities

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Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to follow up on my letter of May 7, 2018 regarding Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) education and training. As the Principal Investigator of a National Science Foundation (NSF)–supported project you are responsible for ensuring that NSF mandated RCR training requirements are met.

Since the America COMPETES Act went into effect in 2010, formal education in the responsible and ethical conduct of research has been required for all undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars supported by NSF research grants. UCLA meets this requirement through completion of an on-line course created by a faculty committee and based on the National Academy of Sciences, "On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research" (3rd edition).

UCLA has recently modified how the RCR course can be accessed and completed. Whereas the RCR course was previously available through the campus Learning Management System (LMS) and the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) site, the course is now available only on CITI. Effective immediately, all students (undergraduate and graduate) and postdoctoral scholars should be directed to access the course on the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) site using their UCLA single sign-on at https://www.citiprogram.org. For instructions on accessing CITI, please visit https://rpc.research.ucla.edu/responsible-conduct/.

As I previously advised, the NSF requirements apply only to students and postdocs. Nevertheless, I urge you and your research team to complete the course. I also encourage you to use it as the basis for important in-person discussions critical to ensuring that young scientists learn about the professional standards and norms for conducting research ethically and with rigor.

Please contact the Research Policy and Compliance office at RPC@research.ucla.edu if you have questions regarding the NSF RCR course.

Sincerely,

Roger M. Wakimoto
Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activities