GMS 7877 – Responsible Conduct of Biomedical Research

Spring 2025 – Tuesdays at 3:30-5:30 pm
Room CG-11

This course will be taught IN PERSON only. For other RCR course options to fulfill RCR training requirements for an NIH fellowship or training grant, please note that this is one of four UF graduate courses that meet such requirements. For more information about other RCR courses that are available at UF, please visit research.ufl.edu/rcr/courses/.

The schedule shown below is from Spring 2024. The Canvas site for this course will be available to all registered students. A draft schedule for 2025 will be posted soon. Changes to the schedule will be posted in Canvas only.

If you need assistance registering for this course, please contact Christian Rodriguez (e-mail chrisar94 at ufl.edu; phone 294-8335; office CG-72F). Postdocs and early stage investigators wishing to participate in this course to fulfill RCR Training requirements should contact Dr. McCormack at mccormac at ufl.edu.

- Jan 9 – Intro to RCR & Team-Based Learning
- Jan 16 – Intro to Ethical Decision-Making
- Jan 23 – Avoiding Research Misconduct
- Jan 30 – Welfare of Laboratory Animals
- Feb 6 – Protection of Human Subjects
- Feb 13 – Conflicts of Interest & Commitment
- Feb 20 – Data Management Practices
- Feb 27 – Collaborative Research
- Mar 5 – Rigor & Reproducibility
- Mar 12 – No class – UF Spring Break
- Mar 19 – Safe Research Environments
- Mar 26 – Mentor & Trainee Responsibilities
- Apr 2 – No Class
- Apr 9 – Authorship & Publication
- Apr 16 – Peer Review

Course Director: Wayne T. McCormack, PhD (e-mail mccormac at ufl.edu; phone 294-8334; office CG-72K)

This course is required for all COM BMS doctoral students. It is designed to introduce key issues in the responsible conduct of research (RCR), following the research process from inception to planning, conducting, reporting, and reviewing biomedical research. The course seeks to provide a practical overview of the rules, regulations, and professional practices that define the responsible conduct of research. The coverage is not exhaustive and leaves room for

continued reading and discussion with the student's mentor, in the laboratory and classroom, at professional meetings, and in any other setting where researchers gather to discuss their work.

This course is open to graduate students in other graduate programs, and postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty members who must complete RCR training to fulfill fellowship or training grant requirements are also welcome to participate. Please contact Dr. McCormack for more information.

Attendance: Attendance and participation are mandatory. Unexcused absences will lower your grade as described below. If you will miss any sessions due to professional travel or illness, please contact Dr. McCormack and see below for instructions about a make-up assignment.

Textbook: The textbook "ORI Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research" by Nicholas H. Steneck (Department of Health & Human Services) features case studies, text-box inserts, discussion questions, and electronic and printed resources. The text is available on-line (Table of Contents), but please note that some sections are out-of date due to changes in government regulations. For the most up-to-date information for this course, please use only the links provided in the Resources section of the course eLearning site (Canvas).

Lectures: PowerPoint presentations and/or videotaped lectures are available on-line at the course eLearning site. Log in using your Gatorlink username and password. Click on "Documents" to see folders for each session. Click on the folder to see contents (arrow head will point down).

Grading: Letter grade (90, A; 85, A-; 80, B+; 75, B; 70, B-; 65, C+; 60, C; 55, C-; 50, D). On a 100 point scale, grading for students registered for credit will be based on both individual and team assessments during team-based learning sessions, with the relative weighting to be determined by student vote. Unexcused absences will result in a score of 0 for that session and will lower your grade (see Make-Up Assignments below).

Academic Honesty: Please do not seek material from students from previous years for this course or accept passed down materials from previous students. Doing so constitutes academic dishonesty, and will result in automatic failure for this course.

Reading Assignments: Please read the assigned chapters and view the on-line lectures **before** each session. Each team-based learning (TBL) session begins with a readiness assurance test about the reading material content, which you will take individually and counts toward your grade. Assigned readings associated with each seminar include case scenarios and discussion questions dealing with the relevant ethical issues. Please think about how you would answer these questions before each team-based learning session, as your team will be discussing similar scenarios in some detail.

Preparation for Team-Based Learning Sessions: Small groups will be set up using the team-based learning format. Team assignments will be provided, and you will work with the same team for the duration of the course. **Your assignments before each team-based learning session** are to:

1. read the assigned chapter of "ORI Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research" (use links at the course eLearning site)
2. familiarize yourself with the main points of the assigned chapter, and
3. think about how you would answer the case study and discussion questions in the assigned chapter.
4. view the relevant PowerPoint and/or videotaped lecture (links at course eLearning web site)Session schedule:

3:35 – Individual Readiness Assurance Test (via Canvas)
3:45 – Team Readiness Assurance Test
4:05 – Application Exercise – Team discussion of case studies and questions, followed by class discussion
5:30 – Adjourn

Readiness Assurance Tests will consist of 8-10 multiple-choice questions based on the assigned reading and seminar content (closed book). Individual Readiness Assurance Tests will be completed online in Canvas. **You must bring a laptop computer or tablet to class every week to take the individual test.** It is imperative that you **arrive to class on time** for the individual test. Team Readiness Assurance Tests (also closed book) will consist of the same questions as the Individual Readiness Assurance Test, and team answers will be recorded on scratch-off cards that will be provided.

Make-Up Assignments: If you miss a session due to illness or professional travel, please contact me as soon as possible (**in advance for travel**). Please submit via e-mail, preferably in advance of your trip or within a week if absent due to illness, brief written answers to TWO sets of question in the assigned reading chapter: (1) the case study questions; and (2) the discussion questions at the end of the chapter. Links to the case studies are in the right margin of the introduction page for each chapter (labeled either "Short Case" or "Case Study"), under the cartoon. Discussion questions may be found at the "Questions" link in the left margin. I don't expect you to write extensively on each question, but enough to demonstrate that you have read the material and have thought about the issues in the context of responsible conduct of research.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with the course director and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.