

PLAN FOR INSTRUCTION IN THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

The foundation of our training program is a close relationship between the trainee and his or her faculty mentoring team. Therefore the effective teaching of ethics in research is expected to occur regularly on the individual level between mentors and trainees. Following the guiding principles established by NIH, BD2K faculty mentors are engaged in instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) in ways that allow them to serve as effective role models.

RCR training is required for all faculty, staff, and students who are engaged in the planning, conduct, or analysis of research at UNC-Chapel Hill that involves human subjects. The Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) is a web-based training package on issues relating to human subjects research. The CITI web site is maintained by the University of Miami, with content developed by a national consortium. CITI contains modules on topics like informed consent, vulnerable populations, ethical principles, and IRB regulations. Each module has a short quiz at the end to assess understanding. All BD2K trainees will complete this training and any required annual updates by the end of the first month of each training year.

In addition, BD2K trainees will be exposed to a wide depth and breadth of research ethics training opportunities corresponding to the recommended topic areas outlined in the November 2009 *“NIH Update on the Requirement for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research.”*

- conflict of interest – personal, professional, and financial
- policies regarding human subjects, live vertebrate animal subjects in research, and safe laboratory practices
- mentor/mentee responsibilities and relationships
- collaborative research including collaborations with industry
- peer review
- data acquisition and laboratory tools; management, sharing and ownership
- research misconduct and policies for handling misconduct
- responsible authorship and publication
- the scientist as a responsible member of society
- contemporary ethical issues in biomedical research, and the environmental and societal impacts of scientific research

The BD2K program’s formal requirement is that in addition to basic certification and one-on-one individual ethics mentoring, each trainee complete a substantial body of training in the Responsible Conduct of Research. The preferred method for obtaining this training is by earning formal course credit for GRAD 721: Research Ethics (<http://gradprofdev.web.unc.edu/files/2012/08/GRAD721syllabus.pdf>), which meets twice weekly for seven weeks and carries 1 hour of credit. Trainees will have until the end of their first training year (typically mid- August) to complete the requirement.