



Introducing the Short Course on RCR Instruction (SCoRCRI)



A Project of the U.S. HHS Office of Research Integrity

Kenneth D. Pimple, Ph.D., Indiana University-Bloomington and Jason Borenstein, Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

Abstract ORI held a 1½ day train-the-trainer event in April 2017. Sessions covered standard and emerging topics in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) as well as effective pedagogy, program or session evaluations, and assessment of trainees’ knowledge and skills. K. Pimple was the logistics director of the project and J. Borenstein was a member of the planning committee and a presenter at the event. Kathryn Partin, Director of the HHS Office of Research Integrity (ORI), and a high-caliber planning committee made invaluable contributions.

Introduction ORI “oversees and directs Public Health Service (PHS) research integrity activities on behalf of the Secretary of Health and Human Services”¹ and is widely considered to be a thought leader in the United States in protecting and promoting the integrity of science. ORI also has significant interactions with officials around the globe who are concerned about research misconduct and research integrity.

ORI’s Divisions of Investigative Oversight and Education & Integrity support research institutions and scientists, notably providing information about research integrity policies and practices.

Dr. Partin initiated a methodical and ambitious project in May 2016 to develop a research-informed short course on instruction in the responsible conduct of research. ORI has provided similar short course, called RIO Boot Camps, since 2006 for institution-based research integrity officers (RIOs), who are responsible for handling allegations of research misconduct. Process A short time later, Dr. Partin asked K. Pimple to consult on the new RCR instruction training event, and in June 2016 he became an ORI contractor. We recruited a planning committee of seventeen national and international leaders in research on research integrity and RCR instruction (see below).

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We started with a skeleton plan and began talking with potential planning members, soliciting their views and insights gathered via email, telephone, and eventually two teleconferences. Discussion was lively, opinionated, informed, supportive, critical (in the best sense), and disciplined. Conversations continued by email as the event took shape. (please continue on next page)

Event Agenda	
Wed April 5 12:30 to 5:30 pm	Thu April 6 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Introductions	Warmup
1 NSF & NIH RCR Policies	4 Misconduct
2 Pedagogy	5 Assessment
3 Data	6 Collaboration
	7 Authorship

The faculty of the SCoRCRI, also known as the presenters or trainers-of-trainers



The presenters are shown from left to right: **Gerald Koocher**, DePaul U. | **Dena Plemmons**, U. of California Riverside | **Ellen R. Fisher**, Colorado State U. | **Jason Borenstein**, Georgia Institute of Technology | **Sharon Shriver**, PRIM&R | **James DuBois**, Washington U. in Saint Louis | **Trisha Phillips**, West Virginia U. | **Francis Macrina**, Virginia Commonwealth U. | **Kathryn Partin**, Office of Research Integrity | **Michael Kalichman**, U. of California-San Diego | **Lisa M. Rasmussen**, U. of North Carolina-Charlotte | **Michael Mumford**, U. of Oklahoma | **Kenneth D. Pimple**, Indiana U.-Bloomington | **James Kroll**, National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General (not shown). All mentioned above are members of the Planning Committee. In addition, three members did not attend the event: **Anita Gordon**, U. of Northern Iowa | **Brian Martinson**, Health Partners Research Foundation | **Camille Nebeker**, U. of California San Diego.

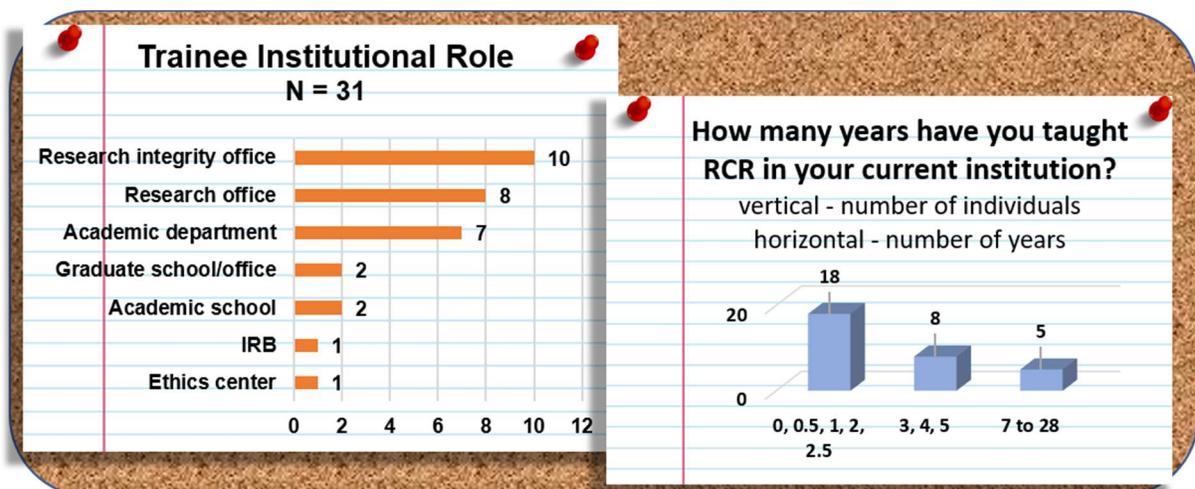
¹ HHS Office of Research Integrity. 2016. “About ORI.” <http://ori.hhs.gov/about-ori> verified May 23, 2017

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In December 2016 we invited almost 100 universities to send RCR instructors to the event (see at the bottom of this page). The application form asked for information about the applicants' experience, such as

- What is your type of position (e.g., Administration, Faculty, Professional Staff, Staff)?
- How long have you taught RCR at your current institution?

The answers to those two questions are on the bulletin board below.



Discussion We had two major sources of data: the **application form**, submitted to us before the event, and the **evaluation form**, which was filled during the event. A detailed report will be available online soon at

<http://teachrcr.us/wcri2017>

Evaluation *Precis* The seven major sessions were each evaluated with these five items:

- This topic is vital for managing a RCR program.
- This topic is vital for teaching a RCR course.
- I learned a great deal about this topic.
- Instruction in this topic area is important for my institution.
- The session presenter(s) showed expertise in teaching the subject.

To present the most data here we conflated the seven sessions into one, simply adding their scores together and treating the *strongly disagree* and *disagree* responses as one item, as well as *agree* and *strongly agree*.

Uncertain stands on its own. The long green bars for agreement make it obvious that the affirmations dominate.

Trainee Research Institutions

Of the approximately 80 institutions, 25 institutions (below) sent one to three people to attend the event. A few other institutions expressed interest and a few were accepted but had to withdraw due to logistical problems. The institutional sponsors, who identified and supported likely participants, numbered 23, of which 5 were also participants at the event. The sponsoring institutions are listed below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| • American Association for the Advancement of Science | • Rutgers University |
| • Case Western Reserve University | • Stony Brook University |
| • Colorado State University | • Tulane University |
| • Cornell University | • University of Arizona |
| • Drexel University College of Medicine | • University of California-San Diego |
| • Georgetown University Medical Center | • University of Florida |
| • Harvard School of Public Health | • University of Houston |
| • Indiana University | • University of Northern Iowa |
| • Johns Hopkins School of Medicine | • University of Oklahoma Health Science Center |
| • Medical College of Wisconsin | • University of Rhode Island |
| • Pennsylvania State University | • University of Virginia |
| • Rush University Medical Center | • Washington University in St. Louis |
| • Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School | |

Totals Across Topics

