

**Responsible Conduct of Research Ethics Courses Spring 2020  
For Postdoctoral and Research Fellows GAH: 601A Session 000  
For Faculty Researchers GAH: 601A Session 001**

The Responsible Conduct of Research Ethics Course is designed specifically for Postdoctoral and Research Fellows and early career biomedical scientific researchers. This course was designed with the advice of expert faculty, national guidelines for ethics training, the Emory Ethics Center, and Postdoctoral Fellow recommendations to assure its relevance to these trainees now and early career researchers in their future. The course informs of ethical principles and policies relevant to the conduct of research through readings, creation of case studies, and class discussions. The Background Information on each topic is read prior to the one-hour class discussions of case studies submitted by the Postdocs and Fellows. The case study discussions are led by faculty facilitators. The Background information on each topic is sent as an attachment to an email to course registrants. The discussions of case studies explore methods for acceptable ethical resolution of the case study problems. Postdocs, Research Fellows, and early career researchers are the future leaders of the world's scientific research enterprise and it is hoped the course will help them govern now and in the future with the ethical guidelines required in the responsible conduct of research.

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Office of Postdoctoral Education

**Acknowledgements for Contributions to this Course**

We wish to thank the following for providing educational materials for this course and permission to use them as needed: Dr. Ruth Fischbach, Professor of Bioethics and Co-founder of the Center for Bioethics at the Columbia University College of Surgeons. Dr. Fischbach's on-line Columbia University course served as a model structure for the present on-line component of this course. Drs. John Banja, Director of the Ethics Program and Arri Eisen, Ethics Center Emory University suggested expert faculty and their example case studies have been invaluable as well as their shared experiences from directing other Ethics courses. We also thank the Emory faculty who contribute time and expertise to lead the case study discussions. The valuable website of the Office of Research Integrity, US Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Wisconsin, Responsible Conduct of Research Course served as important sources of information for this course.

**Structure of the Course:**

Each Background Information document is sent two weeks prior to the class for reading prior to case study creation and class discussions. It is sent as an attachment to an email. For each topic in the course, the Background Information documents include the sections below:

A. Background Information Documents on Each Topic in the Course

1. Introduction to the topic and importance in research
2. Historical perspective of the importance of the topic
3. Relevant national and Emory University Guidelines and Policies
4. Example Case Studies with guide questions on the topic that can be used as examples to construct a case study for assignment submission. The examples of real or created scenarios illustrate the ethical principles involved in each topic.
5. Links to additional literature and resources on the topic

1B. Required Assignments for GAH: 601A Session 000 Postdocs and Medical Fellows

1. Reading of the Background Information documents and prior to class discussions
2. Attendance at all four class sessions for discussions of the eight topics.
3. Submission of a Case Study for one of the topics to be discussed in class with three discussion questions. The case study is submitted as an attachment to an email one week before the classroom discussions. The case study is uploaded to Canvas under the corresponding Assignment. Selected case studies with no identifiers are used in class discussions.
4. Completion of the multiple-choice course review questions by the last day of class.

2B. Required Items for Ethics GAH: 601A Session 001 Faculty-rank Registrants

1. Reading of the Background Information documents prior to class discussions
2. Attendance at all four class sessions for discussions of the eight topics.
3. Two one-hour discussions on each topic of 1) Responsible Authorship and Review and 2) Data Ownership and Management with graduate student(s) or Postdoc(s) using case studies and/or policies. A summary of each of the two mentoring/teaching sessions (~200 words each) is to be signed by the faculty person and trainee(s) and to be submitted by the end of the course Canvas under the corresponding Assignment.
4. Completion of the multiple-choice course review questions by the last day of class.

**Important Note:** To receive a certificate and verification from the Office of the Postdoctoral Education the Ethics course was taken and completed as required by NIH, Postdocs and Medical Fellows are required to 1) Submit all required assignments, 2) attend ALL discussion sessions, and 3) Submit the completed Final Course Review. If travel to a national science meeting interferes with class attendance, please contact Karen Rommelfanger ([krommel@emory.edu](mailto:krommel@emory.edu)) to develop a substitute for the missed session. Only one class discussion session can be missed to receive the certificate for the course. For those who successfully completed the course, the Office of Postdoctoral Education will provide a description of the course that can be used in fellowship and grant applications.

**D. COURSE Required Classroom Sessions Wednesdays, January 16 to February 13**

<b>Topic Discussed in Class</b>	<b>Discussion Date and Room in the SOM</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Mentor and Postdoc Relationship</b> <i>Dr. John Banja</i>	<b>January 23, Thursday</b> Room 153A and 178P*	2:45 – 3:45pm
<b>Responsible Authorship &amp; Review</b> <i>Dr. Shawn Hochman</i>	<b>January 23, Thursday</b> Room 153A* and 178P	3:55 – 4:55pm
<b>Data Acquisition and Management</b> <i>Dr. Roy Sutliff</i>	<b>February 6, Thursday</b> Room 153A and 178P*	2:45- 3:45pm
<b>Use of Human Subjects in Research</b> <i>Dr. Rebecca Pentz</i>	<b>February 6, Thursday</b> Room 153A* and 178P	3:55– 4:55pm
<b>Research Misconduct</b> <i>Dr. Michael Kuhar</i>	<b>February 20, Thursday</b> Room 153A* and 178P	2:45 – 3:45pm
<b>Use of Animal Subjects in Research</b> <i>Drs. D. Levesque &amp; Y. Smith</i>	<b>February 20, Thursday</b> Room 153A and 178P*	3:55 – 4:55pm
<b>Conflict of Interest</b> <i>Joi Mindingall &amp; Karly Taylor</i>	<b>March 5, Thursday</b> Room 153A* and 178P	2:45-3:45pm
<b>Collaborative and Team Science</b> <i>Dr. Ken Moberg</i>	<b>March 5, Thursday</b> Room 153A and 178P*	3:55-4:55pm
<b>Final Course Review Due</b>	<b>March 5, Thursday</b>	

**D. Assignments for Postdocs and Medical Fellows: Case Studies and Final Course Review**

*Submit directly Canvas under corresponding Assignment.*

<b><i>Due Dates</i></b>	<b><i>Assignment</i></b>
January 16	Case Study: Mentorship OR Responsible Authorship
January 30	Case Study: Data Ownership/Management OR Human Subjects Research
February 13	Case Study: Reseach Misconduct OR Animal Subjects Research
March 5	Final Course Review

**D. Assignments for Faculty-Rank Registrants: Teaching/Mentoring Reports & Final Course Review**

*Submit directly to corresponding Assignment.*

<b><i>Due Dates</i></b>	<b><i>Assignment</i></b>
February 27	Report of two required mentoring/teaching sessions on Authorship AND Mentorship
March 5	Final Course Review

**Course Objectives:**

- To inform Postdoctoral and Medical Fellows and early career researchers of the national and university principles, laws and policies that guide the ethical conduct of research at Emory and nationally
- To increase the awareness in application of these ethical principles and policies in present and future research efforts and resolution of ethical problems through discussions of these principles with expert and experienced faculty.
- To encourage the use of ethical guiding principles in planning future careers.
- To facilitate a deeper understanding of the broad complexity of ethical problems.

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