**Office of Strategic Research Initiatives**

**Guidelines for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR): NIH Research Training Grants, Fellowship Awards, Career Development Awards, Research Education Grants, Dissertation Research Grants, and other NIH funded Award Applications**

NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career, research education or dissertation research grant must receive instruction in responsible conduct of research (RCR). Designated NIH training grant applications must include a description of the plan to provide trainees with formal and informal instruction in RCR. Plans for RCR instruction must address the format, subject matter, degree of faculty participation, duration of instruction, and the frequency of instruction. Frequency of Instruction is described in detail in the NIH policy announcement (see link below) and should be reviewed in detail when preparing proposals for which they are applicable. The plans should be developed to meet the specific needs of the trainees. The NIH revised policy on RCR Instruction is available at(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-019.html>).

Resources are available to the Principal Investigators to assist with training efforts. These resources are described in the boilerplate language below. Principal Investigators should incorporate the information in their applications as necessary. *Each grant application should include a plan that has been tailored to meet the specific needs of the trainees in that program: any activities undertaken to individualize instruction appropriate to career stage of the scholar and description of how the mentor participated in RCR training.*

**RCR Boilerplate for NIH Grant Applications**

1. The Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) is part of the educational and awareness training supported and advanced jointly by the Office of Research and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The University-endorsed, catalog listed course (*Biomedical Ethics, BMSC 5160*) in RCR is mandatory for postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who will conduct research. This class meets two hours per week for nine weeks. It covers the nine elements of RCR, and meets NIH requirements for RCR training. The course format combines didactic lecture with discussion and analysis of case studies, thus providing participants an opportunity to explore realistic issues related to research integrity. UNTHSC faculty deliver lectures and serve as discussions facilitators. Students are assessed on performance by written essays and participation in class discussions. Signed rosters are maintained by the Office of Research Compliance to document attendance. Also, an official University enrollment log is available to document class enrollment.
2. The University endorsed *Biomedical Ethics* course may also be supplemented with on-line instruction by completion of the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) RCR modules and research compliance awareness training in RCR. These supplemental trainings are repeated every two (2) years, as needed.