

## **RCR Instruction Program Description**

The following text may be used in training grant applications to describe the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) instruction program available through the ICTS:

Through the Bioethics Research Center, the Washington University Institute for Clinical and Translational Science offers a Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Course that meets the requirement that all NIH trainees receive 8-hours of face-to-face instruction during each of their training phases. The course uses evidence-based best practices for adult learning and RCR education, including interactive sessions, case discussion, and knowledge consolidation through writing exercises and infographics. A 2-hour, required session covers strategies for professional decision-making in research and key professional habits for researchers. The remaining 1-hour sessions cover topics including, but not limited to, human subjects protections, animal welfare, mentoring relationships, conflicts of interest, peer review, data management, research misconduct, authorship and publication, and rigor and reproducibility. We encourage scholars to select sessions in dialogue with their research mentors to ensure that individual needs are met. All courses are taught by faculty who actively mentor scholars and direct funded research. The course is directed by faculty with expertise in research ethics, professionalism, integrity, and RCR education. The overarching objectives of the program are to foster: (a) sensitivity to ethical issues, institutional policies, and regulatory requirements in research, (b) good professional decision-making skills in research, and (c) awareness of resources at Washington University and elsewhere that support RCR.