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Update on Responsible Conduct of Research

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Update on Responsible Conduct of Research

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Science, Technology and Society

National Science Foundation

America COMPETES Act (2007)

▶ Section 7009 of the Act requires that "each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project."

NSF's Implementation of Section 7009: From Workshop to Implementation Plan

- "Ethics Education and Scientific and Engineering Research: What's Been Learned? What Should Be Done?" Workshop, August 25-26, 2008

- Published NSF Proposed Implementation Plan in the Federal Register (Feb 26, 2009) and requested public comment:

  - At the time of proposal submission to NSF, a proposing institution's AOR must certify that the institution has a plan to provide appropriate RCR training and oversight to undergrads, graduate students, and postdocs who will be supported by NSF to conduct research.

NSF's Implementation of Section 7009: NSF Proposed Implementation Plan (Cont.)

NSF recognizes that training needs may vary depending on specific circumstances of research or the needs of students. It is each institution's responsibility to determine <u>both the content and the delivery method</u> for the training that will meet the institution's particular needs.

While training plans are not required to be included in proposals submitted, institutions are advised that they are subject to review upon request.

NSF's Implementation of Section 7009: The Final Steps

▶ Published NSF's Implementation Plan in the Federal Register (August 20, 2009)

▶ Issued revised Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide to formally implement requirement
  ▶ Published: October 1, 2009
  ▶ Implementation: For Proposals Submitted, or Due, on or after January 4, 2010.

Other NSF RCR-Related Activities

▶ Ethics Education in Science and Engineering Program (EESE)

▶ International Ethics Research Integrity Workshop (July 24, 2010)

▶ Two on-line resource sites

   ▸ UMASS, Amherst (0936857; $249,999)
     http://www.ethicslibrary.org/

   ▸ National Academy of Engineering (0936865; $274,968)
     http://www.onlineethics.org/

▶ Solicitation for an on-line resource

▶

Ethics in Science and Engineering On-Line Resource

▶ <u>One</u> award to support a multidisciplinary team of researchers who will create an electronic resource center that develops, compiles, and maintains resources related to ethics, science, and engineering.

▶ PI team will generate new knowledge and collect existing knowledge about ethics education in science and engineering.

▶ The site will help scientists and engineers incorporate ethical issues and reasoning into their research and pedagogy.

▶ The site will help universities and administrators evaluate and implement an ethics training program.

▶ Web 2.0 features to ensure community participation.

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