Development and Assessment of Role-Play Scenarios for Teaching RCR

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Overview

- Program Description
  - Topics
  - Materials
- Participate in a Role-Play
- Current Findings
  - Impressions of Participants
- Future Directions
  - Interviews
  - Useable Packets
Role-Plays of Research Ethics

- National Science Foundation Ethics Education in Science and Engineering Program
- Role-Play Scenarios for Teaching Responsible Conduct of Research
  - M. C. Loui and C. K. Gunsalus, co-PIs
  - Bradley Brummel and Kerri Kristich, RAs
- Approved by the campus Institutional Review Board
Role-Play Topics

- Authorship
- Peer Review
- Mentoring
- Conflict of Interest
- Human Subjects
- Animal Subjects
- Hazardous Materials
- Whistleblowing – Professional Relationships*
- Whistleblowing – Data Management
Components of the Role-Plays

- Moderator Materials
  - Possible role-play formats
  - Questions to ask and facilitation advice
  - Examples of the RCR situation from the media

- Roles
  - Professor, Graduate Student, Observer

- Party Favor
  - Description of scenario and real story
  - Useful citations and Web sites
Running the Role-Play

- Each group must have a professor role and a student role
- Some groups will have an observer
- Run role-play
  - Read and prepare your role  ~5 min.
  - Role-play the meeting  ~7 min.
    - Use discussion starter if needed
- Summary of discussions
Current Findings

- Approximately 435 UIUC graduate students
- Role-plays described as involving and memorable
  - Leads to good discussions
- Some students felt uncomfortable or didn’t take it seriously
  - Unfamiliarity with role-playing
  - Actual difficulties similar to a real situation
- Most said the role-plays were worthwhile (75%)
  - More effective than a lecture or case study covering the same topic, but only one topic gets covered
Future Directions

- Interviews with case analysis to test if role-plays teach graduate students to:
  - Identify moral issues
  - Understand multiple perspectives
  - Negotiate practical solutions
  - Change conceptions of RCR
  - Retain knowledge and skills

- Develop useable role-play packets for other RCR educators

Questions/Comments?