**"Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)"**

Brown University administers several face-to-face courses of instruction in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) that fulfill the NIH requirement set forth in Notice Number NOT-OD-10-019. One of these courses is the School of Public Health’s RCR Training Sequence (the “SPH RCR Training”), administered by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Public Health.

1. **Format:** *Describe the required format of instruction, i.e., face-to-face lectures, coursework, and/or real-time discussion groups. A plan with only on-line instruction is not acceptable.*

The SPH RCR program is a requirement for those pursuing their PhD in the School of Public Health.

The SPH RCR program is taught in four face-to-face 2-hour instruction sessions, delivered via a combination of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to participate in all discussions. An in-class exam is administered during a fifth session. Online CITI training modules are assigned as homework to supplement the in-class instruction. By the end of the training, all students will have completed the “RCR Basic” module of CITI, in addition to supplemental modules tailored for the SPH RCR course. Students earn a Certificate of Completion by the end of the semester if they complete the following requirements: i) attend and participate in all instruction sessions; ii) complete all assignments and required online CITI modules; and iii) pass the final exam.

1. **Subject Matter:** *Describe the breadth of subject matter, e.g., conflict of interest, authorship, data management, human subjects and animal use, laboratory safety, research misconduct, and research ethics.*

The SPH RCR training focuses on issues faced by researchers in the Public Health fields and covers multiple topics including: i) research misconduct; ii) scientific rigor and reproducibility; iii) data acquisition, storage, and management; iv) legal and ethical considerations in human subjects research; v) publication practices, responsible authorship, and the peer review process; vi) the mentoring relationship and associated responsibilities of mentors and trainees; and vii) recognizing and navigating conflicts of interest. Discussion of the ethics of diversity is incorporated throughout to convey an appreciation for the fact that differences of race, culture, age, gender, (dis)ability, and religion can affect the conduct and interpretation of research.

1. **Faculty Participation:** *Describe the roles of mentor(s) and other faculty involvement in the instruction.*

Division faculty and subject matter experts with advanced topic area knowledge are engaged in instruction and facilitating discussion in every class.

The sessions are predominantly case-based, and include mixed-media presentations, panel discussions, and in-class discussions of hypothetical and real scenarios drawn from current literature and news media. The emphasis is on dialogue and the contextualization of ethical decision making in academic research.

1. **Duration of Instruction:** *Describe the total number of contact hours of instruction*.

The SPH RCR program offers the minimum required 8 contact hours plus a two hour in-class exam.

1. **Frequency of Instruction:** *Instruction must occur during each career stage and at least once every four years. Document any prior instruction during the applicant's current career stage, including the inclusive dates instruction was last completed.*

Brown University is committed to ensuring that RCR instruction occur throughout the stages of a scientist’s career, and no less frequently than once every four years. Brown University requires graduate students, post-docs and junior faculty to take a refresher course and complete or participate in any of Brown’s instructional RCR trainings, in accordance with NIH requirements, during their training and tenure at Brown.