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

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 **B**rown **E**thics **A**nd **R**esponsible **C**onduct **O**f **R**esearch (BEARCORE) program, administered by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR).

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 **B**rown **E**thics **A**nd **R**esponsible **C**onduct **O**f **Re**search (BEARCORE) program is an in-person course of instruction administered by Brown University’s Office of the Vice President for Research. BEARCORE is offered as a rolling program consisting of three two-hour mandatory core sessions with embedded case studies, and several one-hour elective sessions with smaller class sizes to provide for more intimate discussion. Participants but must complete  a minimum of eight contact hours. To earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must attend all three mandatory core sessions as well as a minimum of two elective sessions, participate in class discussions, and complete pre-work and homework assignments. In addition to the in-person sessions, participants must also complete the CITI online training course in the Responsible Conduct of Research (Basic Module).

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.*

BEARCORE covers multiple topics including: i) the context and history of ethical research practices within scholarship; ii) scientific rigor and reproducibility; iii) data acquisition, storage, use, and privacy; iv) legal and ethical considerations in animal research; v) publication practices, responsible authorship, and the peer review process; vi) practical and ethical issues in human subjects research; vii) the mentoring relationship and associated responsibilities of mentors and trainees; viii) recognizing and navigating conflicts of interest; ix)research misconduct; x) electronic data management; and xi) copyright and intellectual property. Discussion of the ethics of diversity is incorporated throughout the course 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.*

Brown University faculty and other relevant subject matter experts with advanced topic knowledge are engaged in instruction and facilitating discussion in the BEARCORE sessions. 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*.

BEARCORE offers two-three qualifying core or elective sessions per month. Participants can complete the course at their own pace but must complete a minimum of eight hours of instruction, as well as complete the online CITI RCR learning module, to earn a Certificate of Completion.

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. BEARCORE has an RCR refresher option for participants that have already completed a full-course. Participants in the refresher course may attend several core or elective in-person sessions for a minimum of eight contact hours. Postdoctoral researchers and early career faculty with career development awards are also welcome to complete refresher requirements by facilitating sessions and case discussions.