

**Responsible Conduct of Research Course: Spring 2023**  
**For Postdoctoral, Medical Research Fellows, and Faculty**

**I. Course Overview**

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**1. Who should take this course?**

The Responsible Conduct of Research course is designed to satisfy ethics training requirements of federal agencies such as the NIH, NSF, and DOD, specifically for Postdocs, Medical Research Fellows, and Early Career Researchers.

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**2. What does this course look like?**

- Sessions will include short presentations by faculty and presentation and discussion of topic-specific cases.
- Readings, case study submission, and communications about the course will be available and through Canvas. <https://canvas.emory.edu/>

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**3. When is the in-person course?**

- Tuesdays: January 10, January 31, February 7, February 14, and March 14
- 2:45pm to 4:55pm, two sessions with a short break in between
- All sessions will be in-person.
- You must attend all sessions to receive credit.

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**4. What should I gain by the end of this course?**

- Knowledge of the national and university principles, laws and policies that guide the ethical conduct of research
- Increased awareness in application of ethical principles and policies in present and future research efforts and resolution of ethical problems through discussions of these principles with expert and experienced faculty.
- To encourage the use of ethical guiding principles in planning future careers.
- To facilitate a deeper understanding of the broad complexity of ethical problems.

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**5. Who can I email when I have a question?**

- Course content: Aryeh Stein, PhD, Rollins School of Public Health, [aryeh.stein@emory.edu](mailto:aryeh.stein@emory.edu); Lou Ann Brown, PhD, Office of Postdoctoral Education, [lbrow03@emory.edu](mailto:lbrow03@emory.edu)
- Course materials / Canvas technical issues: Shazneen Damani (Teaching Assistant): [Shazneen.damani@emory.edu](mailto:Shazneen.damani@emory.edu)
- Registration: Brian Ciliax, Director of Data Services, Office of Postdoctoral Education, [bciliax@emory.edu](mailto:bciliax@emory.edu)
- Course certificates: Beverly Medley, Senior Program Coordinator, Office of Postdoctoral Education, [beverly.medley@emory.edu](mailto:beverly.medley@emory.edu)
- IT/Canvas: Canvas support 24/7 by phone at [844-765-2516](tel:844-765-2516) or by [Live Chat](#)
- IT/Zoom: <https://it.emory.edu/office365/ZOOM.html>

## II. Course Map

In-person sessions will be in: Emory School of Medicine Building, Room 190

<i>Date</i>	<b>Topic and Facilitator</b>	<b>Time</b>
<i>January 10</i>	<b>Course Overview and Peer Review</b> <i>Aryeh Stein</i>	2:45 – 3:40pm
	<b>Lab Data Management</b> <i>Lou Ann Brown</i>	3:50 – 4:55pm
<i>January 31</i>	<b>Safe Environments</b> <i>Joanne McGriff</i>	2:45- 3:40pm
	<b>Data Science and Data Sharing</b> <i>Lance Waller</i>	3:50– 4:55pm
<i>February 7</i>	<b>Team Science</b> <i>Carmen Marsit</i>	2:45 – 3:40pm
	<b>Authorship</b> <i>Judy Fridovich-Keil</i>	3:50 – 4:55pm
<i>February 14</i>	<b>Mentorship</b> <i>Larry Boise</i>	2:45-3:40pm
	<b>Use of Animal Subjects in Research</b> <i>Denise Levesque &amp; Yoland Smith</i>	3:50-4:55pm
<i>March 14</i>	<b>Conflict of Interest &amp; Conflict of Commitment</b> <i>Nicole Tannebaum</i>	2:45-3:40pm
	<b>Scientific Misconduct</b> <i>Michael Kubar</i>	3:50-4:55pm
	<b>Final Course Review Due</b>	

### Canvas: Background Information Documents on Each Topic

1. Introduction to the topic and importance in research
2. Historical perspective of the importance of the topic
3. Relevant national and Emory University Guidelines and Policies
4. Example Case Studies with guide questions on the topic that can be used as examples to construct a case study for assignment submission. The examples of real or created scenarios illustrate the ethical principles involved in each topic.
5. Links to additional literature and resources on the topic

### IIIa. Assignments: Overview and deadlines

*Please submit directly to Canvas under the corresponding Assignment. All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the date listed.*

#### For Postdocs and Fellows: Case Studies and Final Course Review

<i>Due Dates</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
January 03	Case Study: <i>Peer Review</i> OR <i>Lab data management</i>
January 24	Case Study: <i>Safe Environments</i> OR <i>Ethics in data</i>
January 31	Case Study: <i>Collaborations and Team Science</i> OR <i>Authorship</i>

February 7	Case study: <i>Mentorship</i> OR <i>Animals in Research</i>
March 17	Case study: Conflicts of Interest & Commitment OR Science Misconduct
May 25	Final Course Review

### For Faculty: Teaching/Mentoring Reports & Final Course Review

<i>Due Dates</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
May 10	Report of two required mentoring/teaching sessions on (1) <i>Authorship</i> AND (2) <i>Mentorship</i>
May 25	Final Course Review

## IIIb. Assignments: Description

### Postdocs and Medical Fellows

1. Read the Background Information documents prior to class
2. Submit a Case for one of the topics to be discussed in each session.
  - a. Write a Case /Scenario (approximately 250 words – ½ page single space) of an ethical problem you have personally experienced, know of in other labs, or can imagine, that illustrates some of the principles in the Background Information document.
  - b. At the end of your case, write three questions that could be used in class discussions of the principle(s) illustrated in your case and could lead to recommendations for action or solutions to the problem(s) in the case study.
  - c. The case study is to be submitted as an upload to Canvas one week before the classroom discussions (see due dates above). Selected case studies (deidentified with respect to author and any other relevant details) will be used in class discussions.
3. Complete the multiple-choice course review questions (will be available after last session)

### Faculty-rank Registrants

1. Read the Background Information documents prior to class
2. Conduct two (one-hour each) discussions on
  - a. Responsible Authorship and Review
  - b. Data Ownership and Management with graduate student(s) or Postdoc(s) using case studies and/or policies.
  - c. A summary of the two mentoring/teaching sessions (~200 words each) is to be signed by the faculty person and trainee(s) and submitted by the end of the course to Canvas.
3. Complete the multiple-choice course review questions (will be available after last session)

## IV. Administrative policies

**Will I receive documentation of successful completion of the course?** To receive a certificate and verification from the Office of the Postdoctoral Education that the Ethics course was taken and completed as required by NIH, you are required to

- 1) Submit all required assignments
- 2) Attend ALL discussion sessions
- 3) Submit the completed Final Course Review.

The Office of Postdoctoral Education will provide a description of the course that can be used in fellowship and grant applications.

**What if I need to miss a class?** If extraordinary circumstances preclude attending a session, please contact Aryeh Stein ([Aryeh.stein@emory.edu](mailto:Aryeh.stein@emory.edu)) to develop a substitute for the missed session. Typically, you will be expected to make up the session in a subsequent offering of the course.

## **V. Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank the following for providing educational materials for this course and permission to use them as needed: Dr. Ruth Fischbach, Professor of Bioethics and Co-founder of the Center for Bioethics at the Columbia University College of Surgeons. Dr. Fischbach's on-line Columbia University course served as a model structure for the present on-line component of this course. Drs. John Banja, Director of the Ethics Program and Arri Eisen, Ethics Center Emory University suggested expert faculty and their example case studies have been invaluable as well as their shared experiences from directing other Ethics courses. We also thank the Emory faculty who contribute time and expertise to lead the case study discussions. The websites of the Office of Research Integrity, US Department of Health and Human Services and the Responsible Conduct of Research Course of the University of Wisconsin served as important sources of information for this course.