

SoM Induction 2016

Gail Williams

Research Integrity at UQ

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Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (NHMRC et al., 2007)

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/file/publications/synopses/r39.pdf

Responsible Conduct of Research

- Why do we need it?
- What is it?
- How can we implement it?



The Code

- Part A: describes the principles & practices for encouraging the RCR, for institutions & researchers
- Part B: provides a framework for resolving allegations of breaches of the Code & research misconduct, addressing the responsibilities of both institutions & researchers

If we follow Part A we will never need Part B

The Code: Part A

General Principles of Responsible Research

Research Integrity Principles:

- *Honesty* in all aspects of research
- *Accountability* in the conduct of research
- *Professional courtesy and fairness* in working with others
- *Good stewardship* of research on behalf of others

- HUPP 1.50.1 Code of Conduct <http://www.uq.edu.au/hupp/?page=24987>
- PPL 4.20.05 Research Conduct of Research <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/4.20.02-responsible-conduct-research>

The Code: Part A

1. General principles of responsible research
2. Management of research data & primary materials
3. Supervision of research trainees
4. Publication & dissemination of research findings
5. Authorship
6. Peer review
7. Conflicts of interest
8. Collaboration across research institutions

The Code: Part B

1. Research Integrity Office, under PVC (Research)
2. Development of detailed policy – see <https://research-integrity.uq.edu.au/>
3. RHD students required to do RI module before confirmation
4. Appointment of Faculty based Research Advisors
5. Regular reporting

The role of Research Integrity Advisors

Professor Gail Williams:

gail.williams@sph.uq.edu.au

Professor Ranjeny Thomas:

ranjeny.thomas@uq.edu.au

Role of RIA

- Be a point of contact relating to responsible conduct of research, prior to a formal complaint or allegation
- Provide information on P&P about responsible conduct of research
- Assist parties to work towards a solution – generate options – encourage informal options
- Refer on to Research Integrity Office as appropriate (with permission)

<http://www.uq.edu.au/research/integrity-compliance/research-integrity-advisors>

When to speak to an RIA?

- Concern that IP rights are being infringed
- Improper conduct in relation to research
- Unsatisfactory resolution of such issues within the research team/School

Other avenues

- Supervisory team
- Postgraduate Coordinator
- Head of School
- Graduate School
- Integrity Office

Examples generally

- Authorship concerns
- Inappropriate/non-approved use of data
- Data ownership disputes
- Conflicts of interest
- Fabrication of results (rare!)

Examples in relation to RHDs

- Authorship concerns – order of authorship – RHD students expect to be first author on ‘their’ publications, conference presentations etc
- Appropriateness of use of student-generated material
- Border between student/advisor intellectual property
- Data ownership/rights concerns – including results from e.g. biological specimens, other datasets

- **RIAs can not:**

- Advocate on behalf of an individual
- Make contact with a person subject to an allegation
- Make own investigations

- **RIAs are required to:**

- Report matters considered to be harassment - referral to the line manager or appropriate officer
- Respect confidentiality

Questions?

