

University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Responsible Conduct of Research Training and Oversight Plan

I. **Statement of Intent** – The National Science Foundation, in its Grantee Standards states:

*The responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) is critical for excellence, as well as public trust, in science and engineering. Consequently, education in RCR is considered essential in the preparation of future scientists and engineers. **Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–1 requires that “each institution that applies for financial assistance from the [National Science] Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project.”***¹

II. **Training**

- a. An agreement has been reached with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to access their institutional membership to the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). This agreement guarantees access to any UMES faculty, staff, student or volunteers to take the **mandatory** on-line training on RCR.
- b. All faculty, staff, students and volunteers working on NSF-supported research projects will be required to successfully complete the RCR training modules with a score of 70% or more before their employment contracts will be approved. Evidence of approval in the form of a CITI certificate will be required.
- c. All other UMES personnel will be encouraged to undertake the training modules, but will not be required to do so.
- d. Training will be available in mid-January 2010. Access to the CITI training site will be available through the Office of Sponsored Research.

III. **Oversight**

- a. The Office of Sponsored Research will be responsible for oversight of the implementation of this plan and enforcing compliance with completion of the CITI RCR training modules before approving employment contracts on NSF-funded projects.
- b. All claims of research misconduct will be handled by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, pursuant to the policy on Standards for the Conduct of Scholarly Research.
- c. The Office of Sponsored Research will receive periodic reports from the training provider, CITI. These reports will be maintained as official University records.

IV. **Point of Contact** – For questions regarding this plan, RCR training and research with human subjects, contact Catherine S. Bolek, Director of Sponsored Research, csbolek@umes.edu, 410-651-6714. For misconduct in science, contact Dr. Charles Williams, Vice President for Academic Affairs at 410-651-6143.

¹ National Science Foundation, Award Administration Standards effective January 1, 2010, Chapter VI.B., downloaded December 14, 2009 from http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf10_1/aag_4.jsp.