Responsible Conduct of Research Course: Fall 2025
For Postdoctoral and Medical Research Fellows and Early Career Researchers

I. Course Overview

1. **Who should take this course?**
   a. **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.**
   b. **For example, those who:**
      1. **Have funding from individual federal Fellowships such as NIH F32 or DOD Fellowships**
      2. **Are supported by Training Grants such as T32 or K12**
      3. **Are funded by K-type Career Development awards**

2. **What does this course look like?**
   - **Sessions will include presentations by faculty and discussion of topic-specific cases.**
   - **Readings, case study submission, and communications about the course will be available through Brainier.**

3. **When is the course?**
   - **Tuesdays: September 30, October 7, October 14, October 21, November 4**
   - **2:45pm to 4:55pm, two sessions with a short break in between**
   - **All sessions will be in-person only.**
   - **You must attend all sessions to receive credit.**
     - **If you are unable to attend a session, you must make it up in a subsequent semester.**
   - **Although other ethics courses may hold some of their classes online, it has no relevance for this course or your requirements as postdocs or early career researchers.**

4. **What will I gain by the end of this course?**
   - **Knowledge of 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.**
   - **Encouraged use of ethical guiding principles in planning future careers.**
   - **Deeper understanding of the broad complexity of ethical problems.**

5. **Whom can I email when I have a question?**
   - **Course content:**
     Aryeh Stein, PhD, Rollins School of Public Health, aryeh.stein@emory.edu
   - **Course materials and records; Brainier questions: Bisrat Dessalegn, Teaching Assistant, bisrat.dessalegn@emory.edu**
   - **Registration: Brian Ciliax, Director of Data Services, Office of Postdoctoral Education, bciliax@emory.edu**
   - **Course certificates: Beverly Medley, Senior Program Coordinator, Office of Postdoctoral Education, beverly.medley@emory.edu**

II. Course Map

In-person sessions (2 classes/session) will be held at:
Emory Center for Innovation at The Hatchery, Room 121/123
Address: 1578 Avenue Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329

Date	Topic and Facilitator	Time
September 30	**Course Overview; Research with Human Participants** *Aryeh Stein*	2:45 – 3:45pm
	Conflict of Interest & Conflict of Commitment *Deepika Bhatia*	3:55 – 4:55pm
October 7	**Mentorship** *Larry Boise*	2:45 – 3:45pm
	Team Science *Carmen Marsit*	3:55 – 4:55pm
October 14	**Authorship** *Judy Fridovich-Keil*	2:45 – 3:45pm
	Scientific Misconduct *Aryeh Stein*	3:55 – 4:55pm
October 21	**Use of Animal Subjects in Research** *Denise Levesque & Yoland Smith*	2:45 – 3:45pm
	Safe Environments *Joanne McGriff*	3:55 – 4:55pm
November 4	**Data Science, Data Privacy & Data Sharing** *Lance Waller*	2:45 – 3:45pm
	Lab Data Management *Lou Ann Brown*	3:55 – 4:55pm
November 11	**Final Course Review Due**	

Brainier: Background Information Documents on Each Topic may include:

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

IIIa. Assignments: Overview and deadlines

Please submit directly to Brainier through the corresponding Assignment tile (with indicated STEP # in grid below). All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the date listed.

For Postdocs and Fellows: Case Studies and Final Course Review

Due Dates	*STEP #*	*Assignment*
September 29	10	Case Study: *Research with Human Participants* OR *Conflict of Interest & Conflict of Commitment*
October 6	20	Case Study: *Mentorship* OR *Team Science*
October 13	32	Case Study: *Authorship* OR *Scientific Misconduct*
October 20	39	Case study: *Use of Animal Subjects in Research OR Safe Environments*
November 3	49	Case study: *Data Science, Data Privacy & Data Sharing* OR *Lab Data Management*
November 11	52	Final Course Review / Quiz

For Faculty: Teaching/Mentoring Reports & Final Course Review

Due Dates	*STEP #*	*Assignment*
November 3	14	Report of two required mentoring/teaching sessions on (1) *Mentorship* AND (2) *Authorship*
November 11	24	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 Brainier the evening before the classroom discussions (see due dates above).
3. Complete the multiple-choice course review questions.

Faculty-rank Registrants

1. Read the Background Information documents prior to class.
2. Conduct two (one-hour each) discussions with graduate student(s) or Postdoc(s) using case studies and/or policies on
   a. **Authorship** AND
   b. **Mentorship**
   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 Brainier.
3. Complete the multiple-choice course review questions.

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 <u>ALL</u> discussion sessions
3) Submit the completed Final Course Review ("Final Quiz") with a grade of at least 75%.

The Office of Postdoctoral Education will provide a description of the course that can be used in fellowship and grant applications.
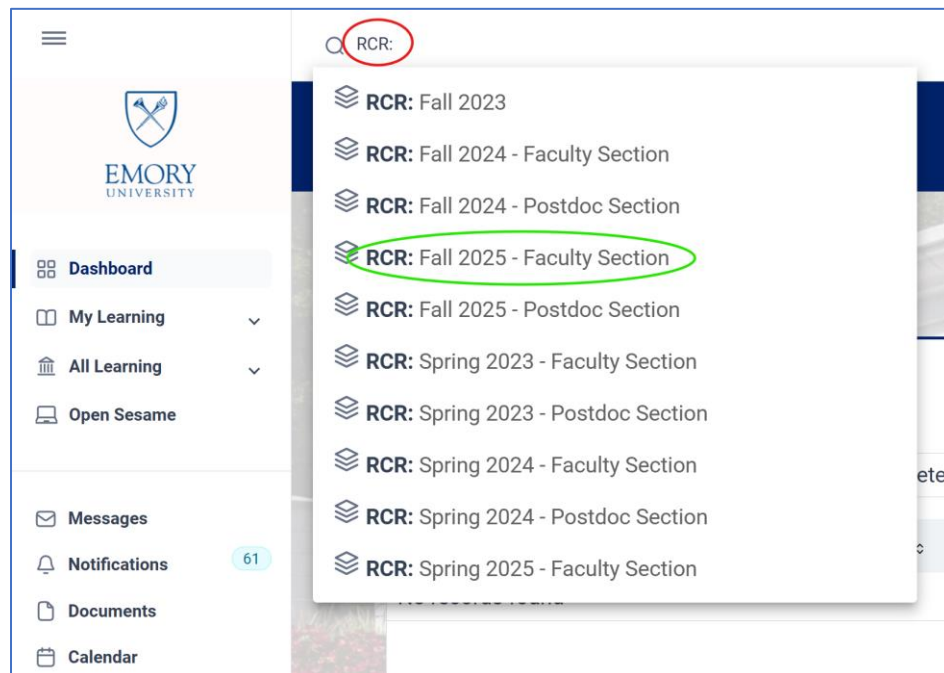
What if I need to miss a class? If extraordinary circumstances preclude attending a session, please let Aryeh Stein (aryeh.stein@emory.edu) know. <u>You will be expected to make up the session in a subsequent offering of the course.</u>

V. Registration

Registration will be through **Brainier** with distinct sections for faculty vs. postdocs/medical fellows.

1. Search for "RCR:" (circled in red in the screenshot below)
   a. Be sure to include the colon (":") to exclude RCR course components.
2. Select either:
   - "RCR: Fall 2025 - Faculty Section"
   - "RCR: Fall 2025 - Postdoc Section"

   (Example: "RCR: Fall 2025 - Faculty Section" circled in green in the screenshot below)

For more complete information, read: **How to Register for the RCR Course in Brainier_2.pdf**.

VI. 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.