



Promoting Research Integrity in France

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COLLÈGE
DE FRANCE
—1530—

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5th WCRI @ Amsterdam (31/05/2017)



CNRS Ethics committee

Missions

- Develops an ethical reflection on the social and moral consequences rising in the exercise of science
- Promotes responsibility and integrity in research



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Informaticien
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MCF, Univ. Arras



Jean-Pierre POUSSIN
Juriste, Magistrat honoraire
Cour des Comptes
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2015: the French National Charter for Research Integrity

French National Charter for Research Integrity

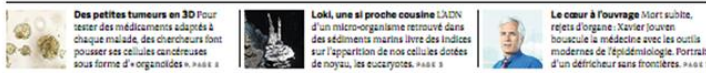


- Signed by all research institutions
- Clarifies the professional responsibilities ensuring a rigorous and trustworthy scientific approach
- Will apply in the context of all national and international partnership



A fraud revealed to the public in France triggers the reflection of the institutions

Le Monde science&médecine



Des faussaires dans les labos

Fabrication de données, falsification et plagiat, mais aussi « embellissement » subreptice des résultats : l'inconduite scientifique est un phénomène en augmentation, qui entrave l'avancée des connaissances. Comment ces pratiques sont-elles combattues par les institutions ? Enquête.

PAGES 4-5



April 2015, Le Monde

Revealed by PubPeer

A top-level CNRS biologist manipulated figures in 27 articles.
8 articles are retracted so far.
He is barred from CNRS for 2 years

Press articles in France, UK, Switzerland, Canada...

2016: A fresh impulse is given in France to deal with RI

- Prof **Pierre Corvol** is given the mission to write a report on RI
- He chairs a 12 expert interdisciplinary committee, meant to elaborate recommendations to the French Government

«*Overview and propositions of implementation of the Charter*»:

a report presented to the

Minister of Higher Education and Research
and to the press in June 2016



Frauds and/or misconducts in French institutions

- Difficulty to detect frauds by French research institutions
- The causes for frauds are similar to those reported internationally: competition, wrong criteria for evaluation, insecure situations of young researchers...
- Lack of statistics of fraud cases
- The methods to deal with misconducts vary among institutions
- Lack of national frame for legal procedure in case of proven frauds



Training to ethics and RI at French Institutes and Universities

- A one day training is provided to newly hired employees at research institutes (CNRS, INSERM, INRA, INRIA, etc.)
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- Lack of training of students and University professors
 - No training at all for senior team leaders and PhD advisors



2016-2017 : Fostering RI Laws and decisions taken at the national level

2016: An official decision taken by the Ministry of Education:

- **All PhD student must be trained in ethics and research integrity**

2016: *a law on rights and duties of civil servants*

- **Integrity officers have to be appointed in each research institution**

2017 : Creation of a national Observatory for Research Integrity

- **OFIS : Office Français d'Intégrité en Science**

The Integrity Officer missions

- A scientist, qualified in research, with no implication in the institution management
- Appointed by the head of the institution for a limited duration, and reporting only to him
- Working in full independence and with means suitable to his missions
- His/her mission is public. He/she can easily be found on the institution website and contacted by any person who has questions about deontology and scientific integrity

The integrity officer

- cares that the institution respects deontology principles and deals with the training of all staff
 - **cares that the procedure to deal with misconducts is clear and acknowledged by all staff**
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- **is the first person to contact when a RI problem occurs**
 - provides a mediation between parties in case of signature conflicts, data sharing, conflicts of interest, etc.
 - checks the procedure fairness for the treatment of fraud cases by the institution

OFIS :The French Office for Integrity in Science

- **An observatory for the implementation of the National Charter for RI**
 - Harmonisation and mutualisation of good practices
 - Spreading of information
 - Training of integrity officers
 - European and international contacts and collaboration
- **A place for the national coordination and impulse for RI**
 - Promoting the work of the integrity officers
 - Proposing training to RI on line

The guide: Integrity and Responsibility in Research (2017)



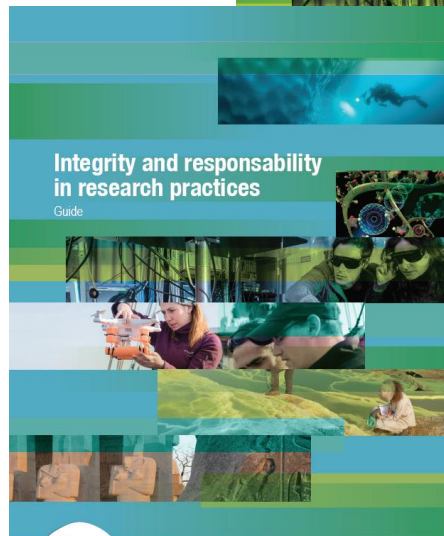
➤ Intended to all CNRS and University research staff

➤ A framework for training PhD students in ethics and deontology.



<http://www.cnrs.fr/comets/spip.php?article91>

The guide: Integrity and responsibility in research practices



Compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements

Responsibilities in collective research work

Reliability of research

Scientific publication and communication

Intellectual property rights

Evaluation and expertise.

Conflicts of interest. Whistleblowers

Preventing scientific misconduct

Researchers responsibility towards society

<http://www.cnrs.fr/comets/spip.php?article91>

In short

A fresh impulse is given in France to deal with research integrity resulting from a strong political will

Training for PhD students at Universities just became compulsory

The creation of a French Office for Scientific Integrity (OFIS) has just been launched and is to be implemented soon



www.cnrs.fr

*Thank you for
your remarks*



Science without conscience is nothing but the ruin of the soul
Rabelais, Gargantua et Pantagruel, 1532

