



Research Integrity in the Canadian Context

**The Second World Conference on Research Integrity
Singapore – July 22, 2010**

Ronald Heslegrave, PhD

Member, Expert Panel on Research Integrity &
Chair, Ontario Cancer Research Ethics Board, University
Health Network, University of Toronto



Council of Canadian Academies
Conseil des académies canadiennes

*Science Advice in the Public Interest
Le savoir au service du public*

The Issue of Research Integrity

- Research is vital for the advancement of social, medical, public policy, and economic agendas
- Innovation and overall progress is dependent on the results of research
- Trust is vital for the public, decision makers and researchers to value the outcomes of research and support the implementation of change to current standards
- Failure of the system to support the integrity of the research enterprise threatens progress at all levels of societal development

The Current Landscape of Involvement

- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Canadian Research Integrity Forum (CRIF)
- Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)

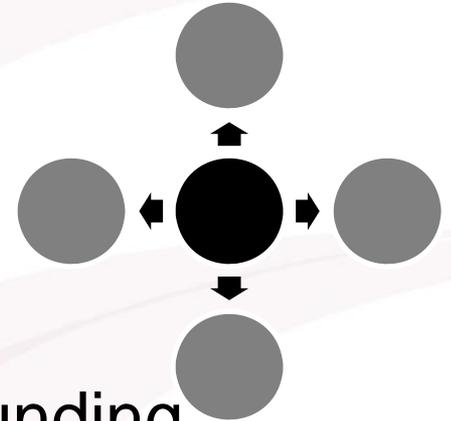
The Current Landscape

- 1994 Tri-Council Policy Statement on Integrity in Research and Scholarship
- 2005 Revisions to the Tri-Policy Council Statement to offer greater guidance on research integrity and its administration
- 2008 Internal Review from Tri-Council and AUCC asked to review their existing policies with regard to research integrity
- 2009 The State of Research Integrity and Misconduct Policies in Canada (Hickling Arthurs Low (HAL) report)

Key Gaps from the HAL Report

Canada does not have a harmonized system of research integrity and research misconduct policies

- “Hub and Spokes” model with the funding agencies holding the centre position
- Interpretation can differ from institution to institution and from discipline to discipline
- No national definition of misconduct or of research integrity
- The system need strengthening



The Minister of Industry's Response

- In 2009 the Council of Canadian Academies was asked to further consider the future direction of research integrity approaches for Canada
- The Council of Canadian Academies is a not-for-profit organization that supports independent, science-based, expert assessments that inform public policy development in Canada
- In late 2009 the Council established a 14-member Expert Panel chaired by Dr. Paul Davenport, University President Emeritus

The Panel's Charge

What are the key research integrity principles, procedural mechanisms, and practices, appropriate in the Canadian context, that could be applied across research disciplines at institutions receiving funds from the federal granting councils?



The Panel's Charge

- Would a uniform definition and approaches for research integrity aid the Canadian approach?
- How is Canada different? How do we align with emerging global standards?
- What actions would be considered to constitute research misconduct in a Canadian context?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of all those involved?
- ***How could a common research integrity definition foster a research culture of high ethical standards and instil public confidence?***

The Panel's Report

The report will examine the integrity of research in Canada, offer a definition of “research integrity,” and provide some insight into acceptable research practice and procedures.



- Heard from stakeholders
- Underwent formal report review (peer review)
- To be released in late 2010

Questions? Comments?

Council of Canadian Academies

180 Elgin St., Suite 1401

Ottawa, ON K2P 2K3

Phone: 613.567.5000

Fax: 613.567.5060

www.scienceadvice.ca



Council of Canadian Academies
Conseil des académies canadiennes

Science Advice in the Public Interest
Le savoir au service du public