

Track 3a: Training for Responsible Conduct of Research – Approach, Goals, Content and Assessment

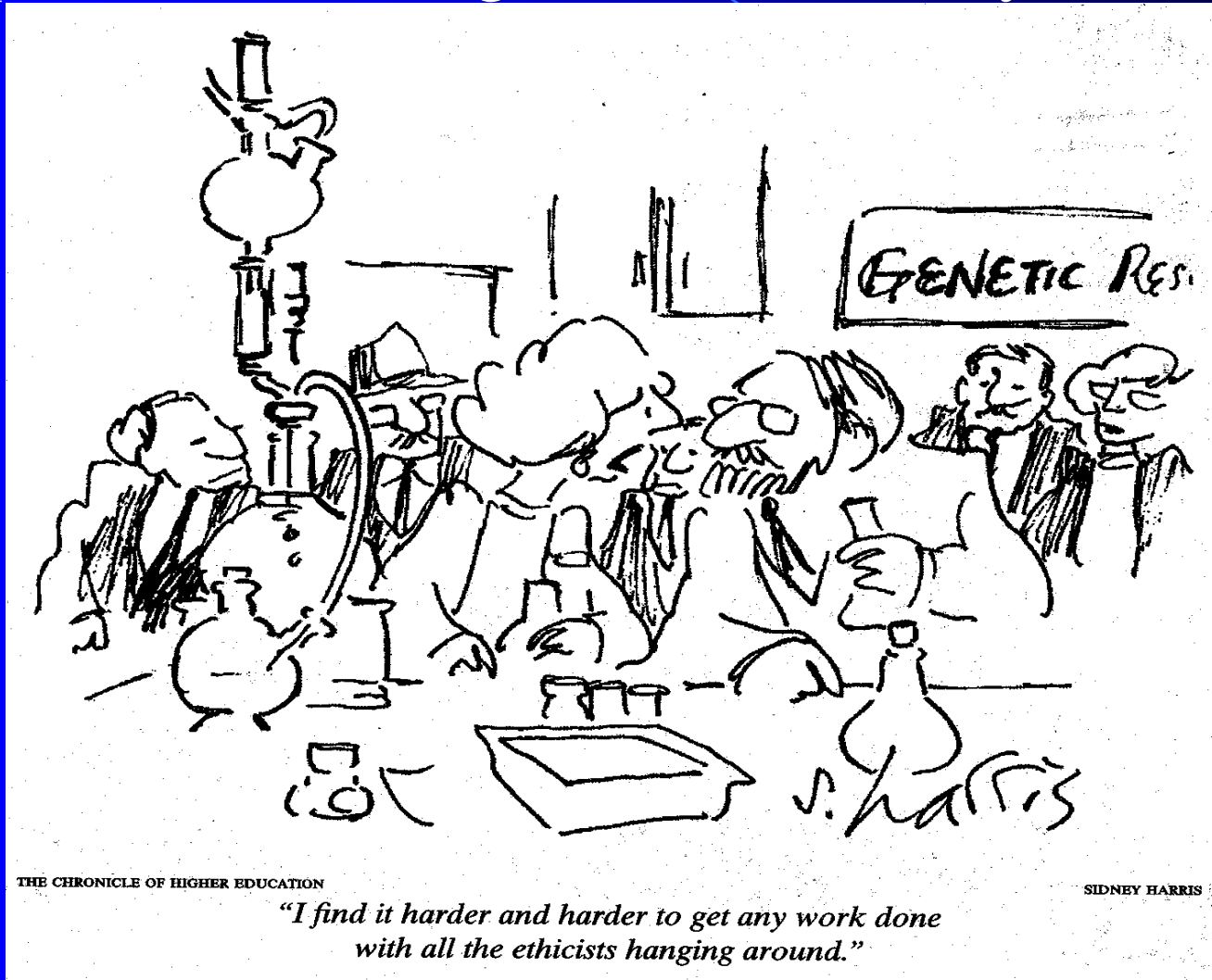
Establishing an Institutional Culture of Research Integrity –Key Challenges & Successful Solutions

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Challenges Facing Higher Education

Department, College and University Culture



Challenges to Establishing an Institutional Climate for RCR Training

Common Attitudes and Perceptions

- Faculty already providing appropriate training
- Misconduct and misbehaviors “rarely”, if ever, occur
- Applies only to biological and medical research
- Limited to meeting federal human and animal subjects regulations
- Faculty workloads are already excessive
- Faculty behaviors are personal and private and “outside interference” violates academic freedom
- RCR training requires major changes to curriculum and significant new resources – no room in current curriculum



Critical Initiatives

“Top down” and “Bottom up” support are essential

- University committee of respected faculty & key administrators that develops assessment and educational plan, delivers training and builds cultural norms
- Strong and consistent support of Academic Affairs and Research Officers
- University Counsel makes clear the legal, financial and reputational liabilities for allegations of misconduct and questionable research practices
- Assess RCR training practices, attitudes and perceived effectiveness – present findings to faculty, students, and administrators

Successful Outcomes

- Faculty incorporating RCR topics into existing required courses, e.g., research design and methods, introduction to scientific inquiry, etc.,
- Departments/school promoting thesis and dissertation agreements on authorship and use of data.
- Departments/schools including research integrity and social responsibility/impact questions on comprehensive and advancement to candidacy exams.
- University Outstanding Mentor awards.
- RCR training has been added to new faculty professional development programs.

Successful Outcomes

- Students have exerted pressure on faculty, dept. chairs, university administrators to provide better training.
- University Faculty Senate and President approved mandatory RCR education program for *all* graduate students.
- Several departments have voluntarily instituted mandatory RCR/ethics course for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Institution has undertaken a major review of its “Whistle-blowing” policy pertaining to protection of credible complaints of misconduct or serious misbehaviors