European Level

- Science Europe: dedicated Work Group
  - FWO task leader mapping exercise
Flemish Commission for Scientific Integrity (VCWI)

- A commission for dealing with RI at Flemish level
- Initiative from FWO in 2011: VCWI
- Start of VCWI: 7 October 2013
- Hosted by the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB)
- Its role:
  - advise in general
  - second opinions on concrete cases
Flemish Commission for Scientific Integrity (VCWI)

- **Supervision Committee:**
  - Members (9) from the founding institutions
    - the 5 Flemish universities
    - the 2 academies: KGAB and KVAB
    - the 2 funding agencies: IWT and FWO
  - Mandate: designation of members VCWI and supervision

- **VCWI:**
  - 3 members from
    - Positive and applied sciences
    - Biomedical sciences
    - Human and social sciences
  - 1 chair (one of the 9 scientific members)
  - 1 member for legal advice (without a vote)
  - 1 secretary (without a vote)
  - Members are appointed for 4 years; term once renewable
RI within FWO

• In the application process highly questionable practices already might occur
• Also violations during research funded by FWO is to be reported
• FWO sees to respect of its rules and intervenes
• Principle: FWO’s researchers are (in)directly funded by FWO, but under the disciplinary authority of their host institution
RI within FWO

- Task Force 2014-2015: FWO + Flemish universities
- Recommendations on
  - Raising awareness
  - Training > *host institutions*
  - Detection > *host institutions*
  - Sanctioning
RI within FWO

• Raising awareness

• Clause on RI in call, application & funding agreement

• Profiles for coPIs, researchers and host institutions
  • What they are expected to do
  • What they are entitled to

• RI is part of standard information on FWO (info sessions, guidance for reviewers and applicants, ...)

RI within FWO

- **Sanctioning**
  - General Regulation
  - Specific regulations
    - Procedures for communicating violations and decisions making
    - The types of sanctioning (from warning to retraction of funding/dismissal)
Broadening RI within FWO?

- **Societal impact**
  - General applicable rules on RI and ethics
- **Fundamental research programmes** (fellowships and projects)
  - Only scientific relevance and impact
- **Strategic Basic Research programmes** (fellowships and projects)
  - Scientific impact
  - Economic / societal impact
- **TBM (Applied Biomedical Research)**
  - Late stage translational research
  - Medical impact
  - Size of the patient population
  - Saving opportunities in social/medical (public) insurance
Broadening RI within FWO?

- **Scope of RI is growing:** societal impact, research waste, involvement stakeholders (patients), ...

- **FWO:**
  - Funds research in all domains, *with their specificities*
  - Use of generic criteria:
    - Scientific impact
    - Societal/economic/health impact (SBO – TBM)
    - But also:
      - State of the art
      - Methodology
      - Power calculation (TBM)
      - Scientific relevance
      - Coverage of ethical issues
      - Proof of sufficient number of patients, of ability to get results to patients (TBM)
      - Proof of involvement of stakeholders in preparatory stage and after (TBM)
  - Budgetary constraints: drive for focus on essential research (?)
  - Peer Review: external (2 reviewers per application) + internal reviewers in panel (up to 18) with diverse expertise
    (e.g. TBM: clinical + methodologists)
  - Review of the reports on ongoing and finalized research
  - Publication of experiments/trials also if results negative?
More information about the FWO

www.fwo.be
Information about FWO’s operation, regulations, scientific prizes and appeals...
All publications are free to download

www.geschiedenisfwo.be
Module about FWO’s history

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