How Funders Can Promote RCR
- A Canadian Perspective

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What is the Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research?

Serves Canada’s three main public research funding agencies:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
A funder’s contribution to RCR

• Defined standards for RCR
• Mandatory compliance
• Due process to address allegations
• Consequences for non-compliance
• Other policies and practices that support RCR
Defined standards

• *Tri-Agency Framework on Responsible Conduct of Research*

• Objectives include: reliability of research record, fair process for addressing allegations of breach

• RCR includes: rigor, accurate record keeping, appropriate acknowledgment of authorship, responsible use of funds

• Breach may be intentional or non-intentional
Mandatory standards

• Required as condition of funding
  • For researchers
  • For institutions to be eligible to administer public funds

• Demonstrates importance of RCR standards
Due process

- Identified authority
- Timelines, with flexibility
- Appropriate expertise (process, substance)
- Independence (personal and institutional)
Consequences of non-compliance

- Institution may impose recourse on researcher (academic discipline or dismissal)
- Funder may impose recourse (ranging from letter of education to permanent ineligibility for funding)
- Funder may also impose recourse against institutions for failure to respond appropriately to allegations (e.g. failure to conduct investigation with due process)
Other funder policies that promote RCR

- Ethics policy requires registration of clinical trials on public registry, and providing updates

- Data management policy promotes sharing research data for discovery and reuse, and to validate research findings

Funders should consider whether their policies consistently support RCR
SUMMARY

Funders should:

• be clear about RCR expectations from researchers and institutions
• ensure due process in seeking compliance with RCR standards
• impose consequences for RCR breaches
• ensure their own policies support RCR
THANK YOU / MERCI

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