Exploring Cross-Cultural Similarities, Differences and Appetites for Collaborative Work in Measuring Organizational Climate for Research Integrity

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Netherlands is 0.27 times as big as Arkansas

England is 0.95 times as big as Arkansas

Pop. ~17 million

Pop. ~53 million

Pop. ~3 million
Fast facts

✓ Only comprehensive medical school / AHC in Arkansas
✓ ~3,000 students / residents
✓ ~1,500 faculty members
✓ Research funding $110+ million
✓ Top 18% of all U.S. universities in research funding from federal government
# Words and Context Matter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Term</th>
<th>General Meaning / Perception</th>
<th>Better Choice</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Vague, intangible</td>
<td>Summary, take home message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant</td>
<td>Meaningful, important</td>
<td>Less than 5% chance of being wrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Cram for a test</td>
<td>Set of experiments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Values</td>
<td>Ethics, monetary value</td>
<td>Numbers, quantity</td>
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</table>

Does the term “Research Integrity” translate well into your native language?
Is RCR a universal concept?

Fundamental Values of Research

- Objectivity
- Honesty
- Openness
- Accountability
- Fairness
- Reliability
- Skepticism

InterAcademy Council, 2016
Fundamental Values of Research

- Objectivity
- Honesty
- Openness
- Accountability
- Fairness
- Stewardship
Is research misconduct a universal concept?

• Of 40 countries examined, about half (55%) had national policy

• Extensive variation; all had fabrication, falsification and plagiarism
Research integrity in practice is multidimensional

Adapted from:
It is also dynamic.....and complex

(NASEM Report, Fostering Integrity in Research, April 2017)
Current Federal Regulatory Structure

Recommendation Eleven:
Researchers, research institutions, and research sponsors that participate in and support international collaborations should leverage these partnerships to foster research integrity through mutual learning and sharing of best practices, including collaborative international research on research integrity.
Sometimes simple translation is not the issue

“...standards of research integrity ultimately develop within the profession, established and sustained by researchers themselves, not simply imposed as policy by eternal regulatory authorities.” pg. 212

Considerations in cross-cultural implementation of the SOURCE?

• Using SOURCE in current form may work just fine

• SOURCE content/items may work well, but may need to be translated into native language

• Additional issues unique to the culture/climate of an organization, country, setting, may require addition of new items/content or deletion of others
  • What drives “how things work around here”
Interest in the SOURCE

*80 U.S. locations (VAMCs, AHCs) not shown, due to anonymity per research protocol.
Regulatory Quality (institutional)

- How fair to researchers are the regulatory committees or boards that review the type of research you do (e.g. IRB, IACUC, etc.)?
Departmental expectations

• How fair are your department’s expectations with respect to publishing?
SOURCE – Example 3

Integrity inhibitors (departmental)

• How true is it that people in your department are more competitive with one another than they are cooperative?
SOURCE – Example 4

Advisor /advisee relations (department)

• How respectfully do advisors/supervisors treat advisees/supervisees?
Global community for organizational climate assessment?

- Interest in creating an international community for collaborating on organizational climate assessment?
- What would that look like?
- What kind of resources would be needed?