Promotion of Sound Research Activities --- JSPS’s Approach

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Prime Minister

Cabinet Office

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI)

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

Ministry of...

Ministry of...

JSPS
[Curiosity-driven Approach]

JST
[Strategy-driven Approach]

NEDO

AMED

Universities and Research Institutes

Researchers

/ Provides frameworks for S&T policy
/ General coordination

/ Provides S&T policies and budgets

/ Funding

/ Research
/ Education
• to fund research projects
  Grants-in-Aid (KAKENHI)
• to nurture young scientists
  JSPS Fellowship Programs
• to promote international exchange 10 overseas offices
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI)

- Japan’s biggest competitive research fund
  ~230 billion yen/year (~2 billion US$)

- Encompasses all research fields (humanities, social sciences and natural sciences)

- Bottom-up research project based on the applicant’s original idea, planning and initiative

- Merit-based screening by peer review system
100,000 New Grant Applications/Year

- New Applications (research proposals)
- Granted Projects (new + on-going)
- Newly Granted Projects

Average Adoption Rate = 26.4% (2016)
Three Commandments

The basic research ethics against misconduct (FFP) and other questionable research practice (QRP) are nothing other than commonsense moral codes, such as “thou shalt not lie” and “thou shalt not steal”.

Rembrandt van Rijn
Call for Attention

“Code of Conduct for Scientists”
(revised version)
Science Council of Japan (SCJ)

“Guideline on Countermeasures
for Research Misconducts”
MEXT
Characteristic Research Misconduct in Different Fields

<LIFE SCIENCE>
- cosmetic surgery of image data
- improper statistical processing

<ENGINEERING>
- falsification of test data

<SOCIAL SCIENCE>
- manipulation of survey data

<MEDICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE>
- falsification of clinical trial data

<HUMANITY, SOCIAL SCIENCE>
- plagiarism, improper quotation

Besides the overall call for attention, discipline-specific measures and good practices should be worked out by the research community.
Education of Research Ethics

e-Learning Course on Research Ethics (eL CoRE)

“the core”
= the basic stance that every practicing researcher should embody

"For the Sound Development of Science-
The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist"
aka “the green book”
Rules in relation to KAKENHI funding

Completion of research ethics course (either by textbooks or e-learning) is the pre-requisite for a Grants-in-Aid applicant.

If research misconduct is suspected, the research institute should conduct investigation of the case without delay.

The individual who are judged as guilty of research misconduct is suspended from grant application for a prescribed period depending on the gravity of the misconduct.
Proactive Measures

Every single misconduct takes a heavy toll of research resources and damages the social capital of science community.

There are neither panaceas nor wonder drugs against research misconducts.

Proactive “health care” is the key.
- Cultivating ethical awareness by education
- Open research atmosphere
- Con + Science  Conscience concerned, concordant
Thank you!