

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT: DISEASE OR SYMPTOM?

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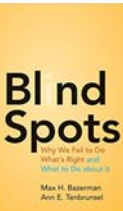
Hong Kong, June 3, 2019

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

- What is it?
- Frequency:
 - 1 in 100,000 scientists per year (Steneck, 2000)
 - 1 in 3 scientists per three years (Martinson et al., 2005)
 - Everyone cheats: Beneficial Dishonesty (Ariely and colleagues, 2006-present)
Blind Spots (Bazerman and Tenbrunsel, 2011)
- Reframe question:

US Definition:

"Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results."



*What is it about research practices
that might allow and perhaps even foster Research Misconduct?*

OBJECTIVE

*Conduct **exploratory** study to test **hypothesis that research misconduct occurs in the context of multiple lapses of good research practices (GRPs)***

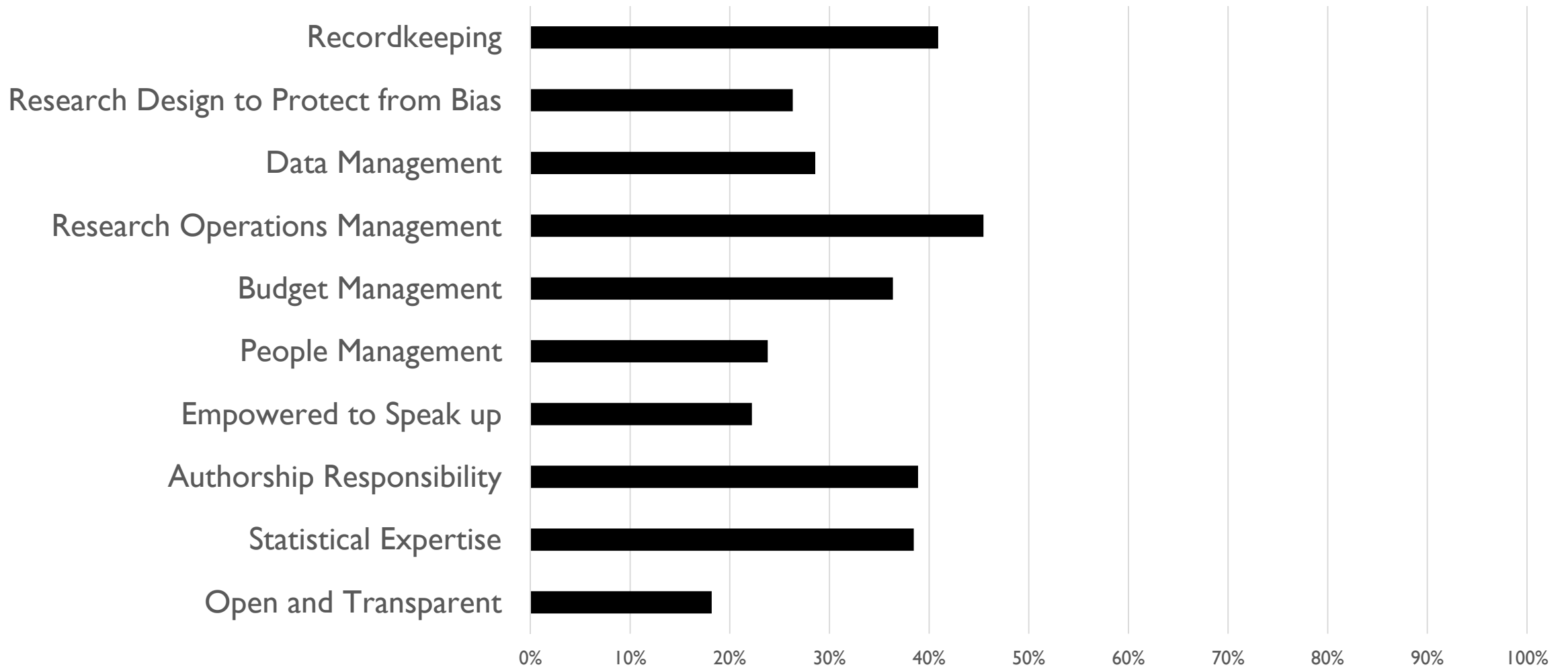
METHODS

- Research Integrity Officers (RIOs) or equivalent for each of the 62 members of the Association of American Universities
- Invited by e-mail to complete online survey
- Survey: Perceptions about characteristics of individuals or research environments associated with their most recent finding of research misconduct
- 50% response rate: 31 respondents with responsibility or oversight for conducting investigations of research misconduct
- 23 respondents: firsthand knowledge of misconduct finding and memory/knowledge of one or more factors covered in the survey

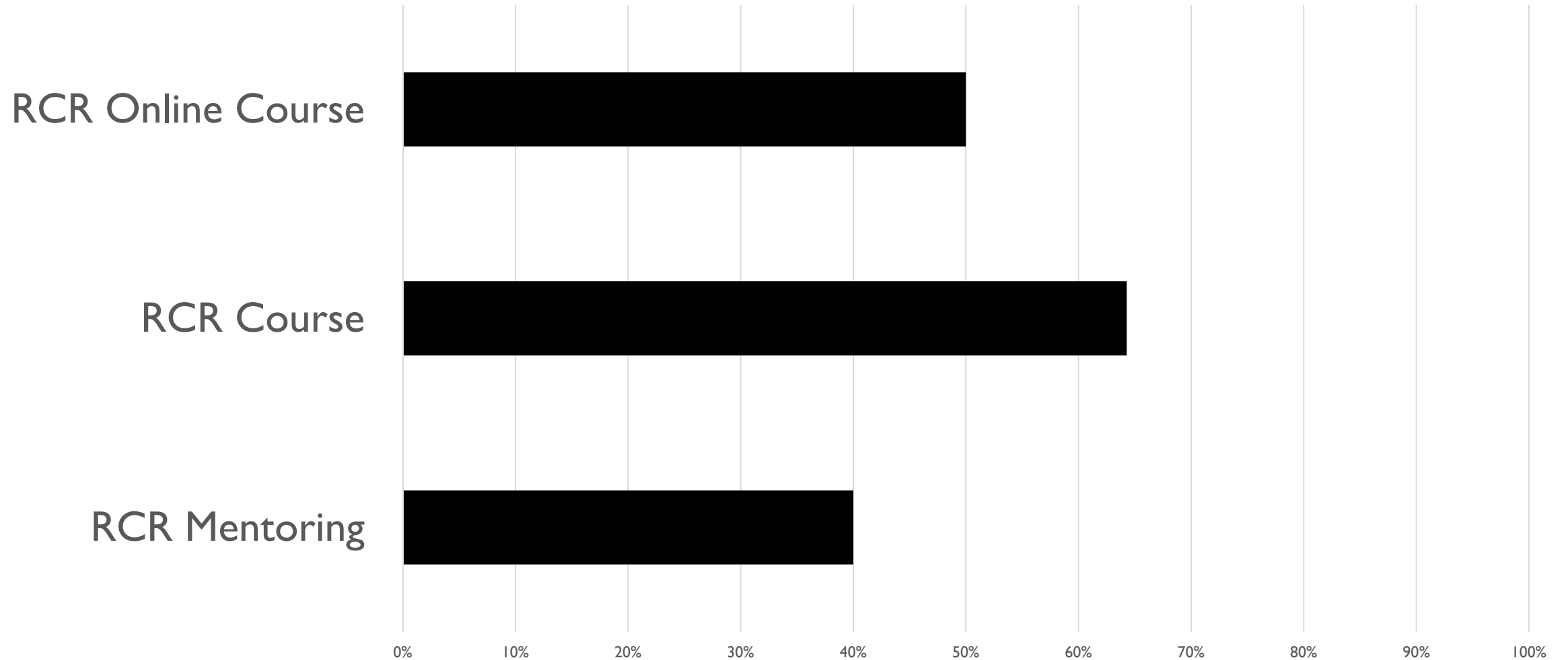


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of American
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GOOD (ENOUGH) PRACTICES OF RESEARCH ...IN CASES OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT



RCR TRAINING



RESULTS

- Deficiencies in 40-50% of GRPs:
Average of 4 and median of 5 of 10 of the listed good research practices identified as deficient by the respondents
- Poor GRPs may be typical:
33% of 21 respondents answered that in their experience the observed research practices were no worse than those in research groups that had not experienced allegations or findings of research misconduct

CONCLUSIONS

- Results of this exploratory study consistent with proposal that:
Research misconduct occurs in the context of a research environment deficient in GRPs
- Plausible that adopting GRPs will may make it ***more difficult if not impossible for research misconduct to occur***