



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH ETHICS

SPA234 Ethics and Legal Issues

1

REVISION

- Some codes of ethics that regulates research ethics involve:
 - ✓ Nuremberg Code
 - ✓ Declaration of Helsinki
- What are these codes about?

PROBLEMATIC RESEARCH ETHICS AREAS

1. Research Misconduct
2. Collaboration Issues
3. Conflicts of Interest
4. Sources of Funding
5. Participation of Animal Subjects

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

- Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reporting research findings.
- ❖ **Fabrication:** making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
- ❖ **Falsification:** manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

- ❖ **Plagiarism:** the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit.
- ❖ Why would a researcher commit research misconduct?

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT CASE STUDY



Research Integrity: Case Study

You Suspect Research Misconduct. Now What?



ori.hhs.gov | [@hhs_ori](https://twitter.com/hhs_ori) | askORI@hhs.gov



COLLABORATION ISSUES

- Collaboration issues arise from the collaboration of a group of researchers.
- These may include
 - ✓ Authorship: Who has the right to be the main author?
 - ✓ Intellectual property: Does all researchers share the intellectual property?
 - ✓ Record Keeping: Do all researchers have a duty to maintain their data/records.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- A situation in which one experiences conflicting pulls from one's personal interests and from one's professional obligations.
- Are the procedures, findings and reporting of research honest and objective?
- Examples:
 - Paying participants to say something untrue (to support your own hypothesis).
 - Companies of medical equipment performing research to prove that their devices are “good”.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Sometimes, research funding comes from private companies, businessmen or commercial bodies.
- These parties may offer funding only under certain circumstances.
- Example: A company that offers funding on cosmetic products to help prove that one of their creams fights skin wrinkles. The researchers find no evidence for this hypothesis. The company threatens to cut the funding (unless researchers manipulate their findings)!

ANIMAL SUBJECTS

- There is a huge debate about the ethical basis of involving animals in biomedical research.
- Why are with / against involvement of animals?
 - The **3 Rs** that define acceptable ethical control in Animal research:
 - **Refine**: refining experiments to cause less pain and distress
 - **Reduce**: reducing the number of animals used if possible
 - **Replacement**: replace higher-order animals with lower-order ones