

# ***DETRIMENTAL RESEARCH PRACTICES (DRPS)***

and Their Impediments to Research Integrity

**Dr. James L. Mohler**

Research Integrity Officer, Associate Dean & Professor

[jlmohler@purdue.edu](mailto:jlmohler@purdue.edu)

765.496.6071



## *Background to this Plenary Talk*

- Why does this matter?
  - There are integrity issues outside the strict definition of RM
  - Do DRPs precede RM? It would make sense.
  - Regardless, DRPs have consequences and victims.
  
- At Purdue University
  - No definition of detrimental research practices
  - Therefore, no process to directly address
  - Reunification of education and compliance under RIO
  
- Why this talk?
  - How we are addressing
  - How to integrate DRP into RCR (one approach anyway)
  - Caveat: many here and more knowledge available

## *Background to Detrimental Research Practices*

- 1992 – *Responsible Science*, NASEM
- 2006 – *Fostering Integrity in Science*, Steneck
  - Defined as Misrepresentation, Inaccuracy, Bias
- 2013 – *RCUK Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct*, Research Council UK
  - At Purdue, draw heavily on this definition
- 2016 – *Implementing a Comprehensive Research Compliance Program*, Dade, Olafson, & DiBella
  - Defined as Data, Authorship, Working with others, Rules & Whistleblowing
- 2017 – *Fostering Integrity in Research*, NASEM
  - DRP instead of QRP
  - Did not define explicit list but referenced and gave examples

## *DRPS as Presented at Purdue*

- Presented after RM definition (strict federal alignment)
- What are detrimental research practices (DRPs)?
  - Practices of questionable integrity that do not rise to the level of research misconduct
  - Some universities or institutions include DRPs in their formal RM policy
  - Even so, some DRPs could be considered RM depending on context
- Four categories
  - Misrepresentation
  - Breach of duty care
  - Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct
  - Neglectful or exploitive supervision (“mentoring malpractice”)

## *Misrepresentation/Misleading*

- Of data by purposeful suppression or flawed interpretation
- Undisclosed duplication of publication
- Failure to declare material interests (COIs)
- Of qualifications, experience, or positions
- Of involvement in publications
  - Gift, guest, ghost or coercive authorship
  - Denial of authorship (overt or by exclusion)
    - Concept of right of first refusal

(RCUK, 2013)

## *Breach of Duty Care/Negligence*

- Disclosing research participants
- Putting participants in danger
- Not taking reasonable care of participants
  - Including informed consent issues
- Not observing legal and ethical requirements for animal subjects, humans, human organs, or tissues
- Improper conduct in peer review of proposals or results

(RCUK, 2013)

## *Improper Dealings with Allegations*

- Failing to address infringements
  - Covering up misconduct
  - Not protecting complainants (whistleblowers)
- Failing to deal with malicious allegations
  - Non-good-faith claims

(RCUK, 2013)



## *Neglectful or Exploitive Supervision / Mentoring Malpractice*

- Co-opt/Hijack/Misappropriate
  - Ideas, projects, grants, publications, intellectual property, connections, credit
- Overload/Divert/Oppress
  - Busy work, menial tasks, unrelated assignments
- Oversharing/Impropriety/Indiscretion
  - Personal life, controversial opinions/topics, biases, family, flirting/coquetry
- Uncommitted/Unsupportive
  - No time, uncaring, unencouraging, unreliable, avoidant, unhelpful
- Toxicity
  - Berates, curses, belittles, sabotages, cruel, disgruntled, bullying

(Adapted from Chopra, Edelson, & Saint. (2016). Mentorship malpractice. *JAMA*)



## *How We Report DRPS*

- Allegations reported by any means of communication
  - Directly to Graduate School/Dean
  - Directly to RIO/RIO Office
  - Directly to Provost
  - Purdue Hotline (phone/web form)

# ***THANK YOU***

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