



Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to make you aware of recent changes in OVPR associated with our responsibility to ensure research integrity at UNM.

The Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) program, previously led by Bill Gannon under the auspices of Graduate Studies, has moved to the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (ORIC). This is partly in response to new NSF regulatory guidance (see details below), and partly to enable better tracking of compliance with training requirements for all our federal sponsors. We have enlisted **Heather Canavan**, professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, as a Special Assistant to the VPR to help develop a comprehensive RCR educational program. Together with other OVPR staff, we have plans for a range of offerings designed to meet the needs of all researchers.

See the details below about how you can register for our first UNM RCR Symposium. Look for more to come over the academic year.

Creating an environment that promotes and fosters research integrity is critical to achieving excellence in research and maintaining public trust in research outcomes at UNM. I truly appreciate your attention to these important elements of our research ecosystem.

Please share with research staff, postdocs, and graduate students. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Professor Canavan or ORIC staff.

Sincerely,

VPR Ellen Fisher

NEW Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Certification Program

Education in RCR not only meets regulatory standards but also promotes ethical professional values and behaviors. RCR training is strongly encouraged for **all** UNM research faculty, students, staff, and postdoctoral fellows and **is required** for individuals funded by NSF, NIH (trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award, research education grant, or dissertation research grant), and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The ORIC and OVPR have created an educational program that meets RCR certification requirements. The new RCR Certification website and associated [training plan](#) are now available [here](#).

The first UNM RCR Symposium will be held Oct. 19. Join us for an exciting in-person event being held in the Physics & Astronomy Interdisciplinary Science (PAIS) building. The **RCR Symposium** brings together faculty, staff, and students from various disciplines to learn and discuss topics related to the responsible and ethical conduct of research. This training meets RCR certification requirements for all federal entities (NIH,



NSF, USDA, etc.). Don't miss this opportunity to network and learn from experts in the field. Mark your calendars and **REGISTER NOW** to be part of this free training event.

NEW NSF Regulatory Guidance

NSF has expanded requirements for their RCR training. The first change focuses on who is required to take the RCR training. Previously NSF required that postdoctoral scholars and students supported by NSF grants, receive RCR training – that has now been expanded:

- **For proposals submitted on or after July 31, 2023, for both Principal Investigators and for senior personnel (i.e., faculty and other academic appointees) supported on new NSF grants are required to complete training.**
- There are new legislative requirements which specify training is required on the topics of mentor training and mentorship; research security threats awareness training; and federal export control, disclosure, and reporting requirements.

Read more about the requirements [here](#).

NSF has also changed how they refer to the requirement to provide appropriate training and oversight from the responsible conduct of research to the responsible and ethical conduct of research (RECR). UNM will continue to use the term RCR to refer to the NSF training requirements.