Food for Thought
“This has been at once the best and worst job I’ve ever had.”
— David Wright, director of the U.S. Office of Research Integrity, who has resigned after two years, citing frustration with the “remarkably dysfunctional” federal bureaucracy. Source: news.sciencemag.org

The 2014 Annual Financial Disclosure process runs until April 30. All investigators in all colleges and campuses are required to submit a financial disclosure in COINS during this period. This generally includes all tenured and tenure-track faculty, as well as research faculty, postdoctoral fellows and scholars. Investigators will receive email reminders from the Conflict of Interest Program regarding the disclosure process. Researchers who submitted a disclosure in the past will need to submit an update. Please contact coistaff@psu.edu with any questions, or to arrange a group information session or demonstration of COINS.

What’s new at the ORP?
Please join us in welcoming Eugene Matullo, a new IACUC administrator. Eugene comes to us from the NIH in Washington DC. With his experience in veterinary technology, Eugene will be a great addition to the IACUC program.

Our office is dynamic and growing! To see our organizational structure, and put a face to the name you see in your email, check out www.research.psu.edu/offices/orp

Our office strives to create a welcoming and inclusive climate for our customers, colleagues and staff. The ORP/ORIS Diversity Committee coordinates diversity-related educational opportunities to broaden awareness. Visit www.research.psu.edu/orp/diversity/2013 to check out some of last year’s diversity-related activities, and www.research.psu.edu/orp/diversity for diversity news and local and PSU event announcements.

Export Control Course Now Available
Online training is now available for PSU personnel who work with federally controlled devices, materials, or technologies. For more information, contact Wayne Mowery, University Export and Compliance Officer (wlmowery@psu.edu).

In 2013, Regis Becker joined Penn State to head the Office of Ethics and Compliance. Becker reports to the Legal and Compliance Committee of the Board of Trustees and to David Gray, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business. The mission of the Office of Ethics and Compliance is to assist the University in achieving its commitment to the highest standards of ethics, honesty, and integrity by promoting a culture that encourages ethical conduct and a commitment to compliance with legal and regulatory obligations. The office meets this mission by:

- Setting forth guidelines for conduct designed to prevent, deter, and detect violations of the law, uphold accreditation standards, and comply with University policies;
- Offering support through training and educational resources;
- Providing an operational structure that outlines and documents the University’s ethics and compliance efforts;
- Working in conjunction with other University offices.

The University Ethics and Compliance Council has oversight responsibility for all university ethics and compliance matters, and serves as an advisory board to the Office of Ethics and Compliance. ORP’s director, Candy Yekel, is a member of the Council, and the Office for Research Protections is one of several “compliance partners,” collaborating with the Office of Ethics and Compliance in working towards the shared goal of creating a climate of integrity at Penn State.

For more information, see www.universityethics.psu.edu/UniversityEthics/
March’s Scoundrel

March’s scoundrel is the space-time continuum, thanks to some bloggers keeping an eye on the misconduct scene.

Ivan Oransky (retractionwatch.com) describes the recent retraction of a 1997 paper in the journal Composite Interfaces. The article was retracted because it duplicated material in a 2000 Composites Science and Technology article. That’s right, according to the authors’ retraction notice, “...our article duplicates significant parts of an article which we subsequently published...”

In a similar vein, Jeffrey Beall, in his Scholarly Open Access blog (scholarlyoa.com), reports on a paper that was submitted and accepted before the work described in the article was completed (as indicated in the paper itself).

Publishing Ethics

Academic and professional publishing company Wiley has recently updated their “Best Practice Guidelines on Publishing Ethics: A Publisher’s Perspective,” available online at http://exchanges.wiley.com/ethicsguidelines

As a companion to the updated guidelines, Wiley editor Jackie Jones offers “Our top 10 tips for navigating ethical challenges in scholarly publishing” on Wiley’s Exchanges blog. These tips are useful for anyone involved in scholarly or scientific publication (not just publishers) to keep in mind.

1. Adopt journal policy and practice that supports ethical best practice
2. Support efficient, effective, and ethical peer review
3. Be mindful of breaches of publication ethics
4. Disclose conflict of interest
5. Accurately list those who contributed to the work and how
6. Comply with discipline guidelines for reporting standards
7. Ensure that ethical and responsible research is published
8. Take action and alert journals to suspected malpractice
9. Correct errors where found
10. Protect intellectual property

Read more
List excerpted from Jones (2014) “Our top 10 tips for navigating ethical challenges in scholarly publishing” exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2014/03/12/our-top-10-tips-for-navigating-ethical-challenges-in-scholarly-publishing/

Committee On Publication Ethics Guidelines: publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines

Check it out! The 2013 ORP Client Satisfaction Survey results and 2011-2013 ORP Metrics are now posted at www.research.psu.edu/orp

April Workshops

April 2 “Ethnography as a research method for environmental health: The case of Angelica, an immigrant farmworker” 12 PM - 1 PM, 102 Kern
Shedra Amy Snipes – Assistant Professor, Biobehavioral Health

April 3 “Synthetic Biology: Learning the rules of life to solve problems” 12 PM - 1 PM, 110 Henderson
Howard Salis – Assistant Professor, Biological Engineering and Chemical Engineering

April 9 “Benefits and challenges of conducting research in workplaces” 12 PM - 1 PM, 102 Kern
Kelly Davis – Research Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

April 15 “Who’s on first? Guidance concerning collaboration and publication**”12 PM - 1:30 PM, 102 Kern * PREREQUISITE REQUIRED at www.research.psu.edu/training
Brad Woods – Office for Research Protections

April 23 “Challenges of reporting unethical research conduct” 12 PM - 1 PM, 110 Henderson
Linda Trevino - Distinguished Professor, Smeal College of Business

Contact the Office for Research Protections
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This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.
U.Ed. RES 14-22. *Aegis definition from Thesaurus.com