Responsible Conduct of Research Interactive Tutorials

If you have new students working in a National Science Foundation (NSF) supported laboratory during the academic year, they will need to register and complete the ethics training modules in order to comply with the NSF Implementation of Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act (see http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-19930.htm for full announcement), which are federal guidelines established that require institutions to present a plan for “appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research.” Colby College has devised a campus wide plan for ethics training to comply with this mandate.

The Center for Materials and Devices for Information Technology Research, which was the previous sponsor of the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) modules on responsibleresearch.org, has reached the end of its 10-year NSF funding cycle and the existing platform was shut down on September 1, 2012. The host of these modules will now be the NSF Ethics Core Digital Library.

Due to concerns for privacy and in order to clean up the old RCR records, no existing group accounts or user records will be brought over to the new system. If you or your current students have already completed the modules in RCR, there is no need to complete them again. Please have newly hired students set up their account (see instructions and links below) on the Ethics Core Digital Library website and have them complete the modules there.

A list of students from the old RCR website has been downloaded by the CFGR office, which will serve as a permanent record of past and current students who have completed the modules should you or your students have questions regarding the status of their ethics training.

Below are the steps required for using the new ethics modules at Colby College hosted by Ethics Core Digital Library:

Faculty and students can login and set up an Ethics Core account with a user name and password: http://nationalethicscenter.org/register

Faculty and students will then go to the new user registration page and affiliate with the group “Colby College,”: https://nationalethicscenter.org/index.php?option=com_rcrtutorial&view=newuser

Once you have joined the Colby College group, you can complete the online ethics tutorials: http://nationalethicscenter.org/index.php?option=com_rcrtutorial&view=toc

There are three modules:
Module 1: Rights and Obligations
Module 2: Collaboration, Communication, and Grants Management
Module 3: Intellectual Property

If you have any questions, please contact Seven S. Grenier, College Relations, 209 SSWAC, ext. 4341, sgrenier@colby.edu.