

Office for Postdoctoral Scholars

Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research

In the first year as a postdoctoral scholar at UMass Medical School, postdocs will complete the course Responsible Conduct of Research. The course is organized by Dr. Anthony N. Imbalzano, Associate Dean for the Office for Postdoctoral Scholars, and is taught by Dr. Imbalzano and faculty colleagues. The Office for Postdoctoral Scholars will initiate contact with postdocs who are required to take the course. The classroom component consists of 10 hours of instruction and discussion. The topics covered in the classroom include:

- Principles of Responsible Research Conduct
- Research Misconduct
- Data Acquisition and integrity
- Human and Animal Research Subjects
- Conflicts of Interest
- Authorship and Intellectual Property
- Peer Review
- Mentoring
- Research Collaborations
- Individual Development Plans (IDPs)

The class format is five 2-hour sessions held over a two to three week period. Four of the classes consist of lecture interspersed with discussion of relevant case studies. The lesson in IDPs is a two-hour workshop. The textbook utilized is Scientific Integrity, 3rd Edition by Francis L. Macrina (ISBN#1-55581-318-6). The course is offered once each semester (Fall, Spring, Summer).

Postdoctoral Scholars hired on or after July 1, 2011 must complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course as a condition of employment. Recipients of NIH training awards are required to take this course in accordance with NIH NOT-OD-10-019 (Requirement for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research). Postdoctoral Scholars who are funded from NSF and some other federal grants also must complete this course, in accordance with requirements issued from those agencies.