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A message regarding ethics and integrity for the VCU Research Enterprise

1 message

VCU Office of the President <presoffc@vcu.edu>

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Office of the President

Dear colleagues,

As the academic year is underway, we are reminded as members of the VCU research community of the need for constant diligence to ensure the highest standards of ethics and scientific integrity in designing, conducting and reporting on research. While we know the real benefits and impact of ethically conducted research in improving the human condition and the society at-large, we have also witnessed how loss of research integrity and unethical research conduct can impact and erode public trust in science.

VCU is committed to cultivating a culture of uncompromising integrity in its research and research-related activities. Members of the VCU community involved in any part of the university's research endeavors are expected to model and foster [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) for all research team members, especially for those in student and trainee roles as well as those conducting human subjects or clinical research. Responsible Conduct of Research describes a broad set of topic areas and includes:

- Following relevant policies and regulations
- Understanding one's responsibilities as a researcher and mentor
- Participating in collegial collaboration within and outside of VCU
- Ensuring appropriate authorship and accuracy of submissions for publication
- Knowing where to take questions/concerns that arise in a complex research environment

Research deans, department or division chairs, the Office of the Vice President for

Research and Innovation and the [Office of Research Integrity and Ethics](#) are available to provide guidance for concerns about research integrity. Concerns shared with these

leaders or offices are held in the strictest confidence and viewed with utmost importance. Alternatively, the Equity and Access Services' [VCU Helpline](#) provides university members an anonymous and confidential reporting option. Allegations of research misconduct are ultimately referred to the [VCU research integrity officer](#).

Research integrity is a core value at VCU. The ongoing implementation of the [One VCU Strategic Research Priorities Plan](#) (SRPP) is rooted in a shared commitment to research integrity. To that end, VCU will participate in a research integrity climate survey next month which will gauge perceptions and improve our approaches to promoting research integrity.

The public, our funders, and our colleagues in the greater research community expect and deserve outstanding adherence to research integrity and responsible stewardship in all of our research endeavors. We at VCU honor our research community for its important contributions and work to assure the highest standards of honesty, respect and professional and scholarly integrity.

Best wishes for a productive semester and academic year ahead.

Michael Rao, Ph.D., President, VCU and VCU Health System
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