CU | University of Colorado **Boulder**

Date: April 10, 2023

To: Faculty, students and staff conducting or supporting research

From: Jon Reuter, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research Integrity & Compliance

Subject: The importance of the responsible conduct of research and data retention at CU Boulder

This is a reminder for the campus research community about the importance of research integrity and helpful resources available to everyone.

Responsible Conduct of Research:

The Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Program is a campus resource that provides training in the ethical conduct of scientific research to CU researchers (from students to faculty to professional researchers). The RCR Program includes training in various forms, including an in-person graduate-level course (GRAD5000) and online training through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). Additionally, it can provide training tailored to individual departments and laboratories. While some researchers are required to take specific RCR trainings, all campus personal involved in research are strongly encouraged to take advantage of RCR training to ensure research is managed ethically and responsibly and complies with applicable laws and regulations. Please visit Responsible Conduct of Research for more information.

Faculty Development Resources:

Providing good research mentorship to burgeoning researchers is essential to the research process. Often, junior faculty are responsible for mentoring graduate and undergraduate researchers who will become future principal investigators. The Faculty Development and Support Program offers several trainings in mentorship and numerous other trainings in leadership and professional development for faculty at all levels of CU. Please visit Faculty Development and Support for more information about these resources.

Good Data Management, Retention, and Security:

To ensure research integrity, researchers must adequately **document** and **retain** data at the collection and analysis. Maintaining data is vital to confirming research findings, ensuring reliable results, and protecting researchers from unfounded allegations of research misconduct. In responding to allegations of research misconduct, the destruction, absence of, or failure to provide adequate research records documenting questioned research may constitute evidence of research misconduct.[1] Required data preservation length extends 7 years beyond the date used in a publication.

Please visit the DHS Office of Research Integrity website for more information about the importance of good data management practices. In addition, new forthcoming regulations[2] will require CU researchers to adhere to baseline safeguarding protocols and procedures for

---

[1] Univ. of Colo. Boulder, Guidelines and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, effective May 11, 2020
[2] Office of Science and Technology Policy's Draft Research Security Programs Standard Requirements (https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/RS_Programs_Guidance_public_comment.pdf)

information systems used to store, transmit and conduct federally funded R&D. Collectively, these protocols provide protection of scientific data from ransomware and other data integrity attack mechanisms. Once finalized, further information will be shared with the CU community regarding these requirements.