BIOC 888 / BCB 888 / CHEM 888 -  1 Unit “Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)”  (six 90 minute classes, 2:30-4:00 on Fridays, Marsico 5004)

March 5, 19, 26 and April 9, 16, 23

**Prerequisites**: Must be in good standing as a graduate student at UNC.  In the unlikely event that classroom space is limited, preference will be given to graduate students who have previously received external federal funding sources and may require a refresher course in RCR.

**Course Description**: Responsible conduct of research is a classroom-based graduate level course covering critical topics for ethical and responsible conduct of experimental research. There are both classroom lecture, workshop-type discussion components, in addition to assigned outside of class readings.  Case studies and hypothetical situations involving the most likely scenarios confronting graduate students will be covered, these topics include: mentor and mentee relationships, publication authorship, collaboration, peer review, conflicts of interest, intellectual property, plagiarism, data acquisition and data processing.

**Target audience**: Graduate students conducting research, particularly in biomedical/biological/health fields or other experimental researcher that may present ethical choices in conducting research. In particular we will target students participating in the Molecular and Cellular Biophysics Program and students in the Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Program.

**Course requirements**: Graduate student status

**Grades**: The major expectation of students is that they perform all outside reading assignments, contribute actively to discussion in class, and provide real life ethical dilemmas they may have faced in conducting their research. Participation in class is a main grading determinate.

**Course resources**: Outside readings will be provided most likely by web (e.g. Sakai) or by email as electronic documents or web links. Students are encouraged to seek out their own information based on their specific needs and specific interests.

**Discussions**: Class discussion is a major component of the course, both discussing assigned readings and bringing case studies or experiences for discussion.

**Course Topics**: Each of the 6 Friday sessions will cover one of the following topics:

* Authorship & Collaborative Research
* Conflict of Interest/Intellectual Property
* Rigor and Reproducibility
* Mentor/mentee relationships
* Peer Review & Publishing
* Plagiarism/Image acquisition &  Data Processing

**Honor Code**: Students should follow the UNC honor code, however, students are welcome and encouraged to discuss reading materials outside of class to stimulate discussion of ideas and scenarios.  Working in groups outside of class is permitted.  All assignments are open internet/open book and can be done in groups.

**Accommodations**:  The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities.  Students must document their need for accommodations with Accessibility Resources & Service before any accommodations can be implemented.

**Expectations & Attendance**:  Attendance and participation are the main determinants of class grades. Therefore, missing any class will impact the grade a student can receive.