Research Misconduct – and Integrity

Network for Clinical Research Professionals
Miami CTSI ¡Alianza! Program
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Outline

1. **Remember why you do research in the first place**
   a. Support growth of knowledge
   b. Reduce suffering
   c. Improve lives of others
   d. Acquire personal wealth
   e. Impress others
   f. Hey, it’s a job. Whatever.

2. **Integrity is rarely served by 1 d-f. It is rather served by**
   a. Veracity
   b. Transparency
   c. Accountability/responsibility
   d. Solidarity
   e. Etc.

3. **Common forms of misconduct are usually frank violations of 2 a-c**
   a. Fabrication
   b. Falsification
   c. Plagiarism
   d. Undisclosed conflicts of interest
   e. Mistreating research subjects or animals
   f. Mistreating trainees

4. **Consequent harms**
   a. Erode trust by colleagues, institutions, taxpayers, society, etc.
   b. Waste money, time
   c. Impedes confirmation, corroboration, replication
   d. Hurt others

5. **Common excuses**
   a. I was busy/overwhelmed
   b. That’s the way they do it where I come from
   c. Everyone else is cashing out
   d. I didn’t know

6. **To do research with integrity is to take a stance, sometimes involving sacrifice.**
   Professionals, especially health professionals, are self-effacing. They value service. They want to increase knowledge, reduce suffering, improve others’ lives. They are not hypocrites. In cases where the right thing to do is unclear, they think—and use the tools of applied ethics.