



How Funders Can Promote RCR - A Canadian Perspective

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**PANEL ON RESPONSIBLE
CONDUCT OF RESEARCH**

What is the Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research?

Serves Canada's three main public research funding agencies:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

A funder's contribution to RCR

- Defined standards for RCR
- Mandatory compliance
- Due process to address allegations
- Consequences for non-compliance
- Other policies and practices that support RCR

Defined standards

- *Tri-Agency Framework on Responsible Conduct of Research*
- Objectives include: reliability of research record, fair process for addressing allegations of breach
- RCR includes: rigor, accurate record keeping, appropriate acknowledgment of authorship, responsible use of funds
- Breach may be intentional **or non-intentional**

Mandatory standards

- Required as condition of funding
 - For researchers
 - For institutions to be eligible to administer public funds
- Demonstrates importance of RCR standards

Due process

- Identified authority
- Timelines, with flexibility
- Appropriate expertise (process, substance)
- Independence (personal and institutional)

Consequences of non-compliance



- Institution may impose recourse on researcher (academic discipline or dismissal)
- Funder may impose recourse (ranging from letter of education to permanent ineligibility for funding)
- Funder may also impose recourse against institutions for failure to respond appropriately to allegations (e.g. failure to conduct investigation with due process)

Other funder policies that promote RCR

- Ethics policy requires registration of clinical trials on public registry, and providing updates
- Data management policy promotes sharing research data for discovery and reuse, and to validate research findings

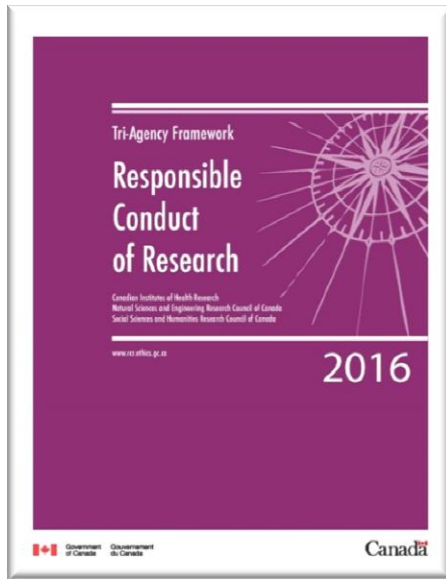
Funders should consider whether their policies consistently support RCR

SUMMARY

Funders should:

- be clear about RCR expectations from researchers and institutions
- ensure due process in seeking compliance with RCR standards
- impose consequences for RCR breaches
- ensure their own policies support RCR

THANK YOU / MERCI



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