Introduction to research ethics

Michael Kalichman, UCSD Research Ethics Program

Temporal Dynamics of Learning Center

November 12, 5:30 – 7 pm
What is ethics?
How should you act?
1. Recognize problem
2. Identify possible solutions
3. Choose best approach and act
4. Learn from experience
Plagiarism

1. What is plagiarism?
2. Retraction Watch example
3. How much is too much?
4. What is the role of language differences?
Ebola

1. What is ebola?

2. What are some of the related ethical challenges?

3. How should we study possible treatments?

RESEARCH CASE #1

The principal investigator (PI) of your research group has told you that the results of some of your research are inconsistent with what she believes is the right answer. She tells you to either leave these out or see if you can find some way to fix the data so the results come out “right.” What should you do now?
RESEARCH CASE #2

You have noticed that another graduate student appears to be writing results in his lab notebook for experiments that have not been done. You are worried that they may be making up these results (fabrication). What should you do?
RESEARCH CASE #3

You have just started a research internship in a neurobiology lab. The research involves surgery on rats. You have never done animal research before. In a brief demonstration of how to do the surgery, it seems to you that the animals suffer a great deal. However, before you have had much time to practice, you’re left to do several surgeries on your own. What should you do?
GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

1. Identify interests
2. Seek perspective

3. Many possible strategies:
   • confrontation, conflict resolution, mediation, arbitration, reporting of behavior

4. Ask!
5. Resources