

## **Postdoctoral Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research**

Within the first two years at UT Southwestern, postdoctoral trainees are required to participate in the semester-long course in ethics for postdocs. This course is comprised of modules that are uniform and others that are tailored to individual lab groups. Trainee attendance is required at lectures and written work must be submitted on topics such as “Research Integrity and Everyday Practice of Science” and “Ethical Issues in Genetics and Human Research”. Trainees are instructed to engage in web-based tutorials on plagiarism and conflict of interest, which include lessons followed by quizzes. Attendance is required at selected Ethics Grand Rounds, which are chosen for relevance by the trainee and mentor. Trainees are informed that each lab group should have written policies on authorship and on how to keep a notebook and other records of data. If a lab does not have a policy, trainees are instructed to work with their mentors to develop one. An optional checklist guide is provided by the graduate school to help develop a notebook policy. In preparation for writing policies, suggestions for reading are provided, including an article on the temptation of image manipulation (*J. Cell. Biol.* 166: 11-15 [2004]) and a web page on authorship entitled, “International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals”. Each trainee is required to lead or participate in a lab group discussion devoted to case studies that explore aspects of research integrity. Case studies can be chosen from suggestions provided on the UT Southwestern web page for the Program in Ethics in Science and Medicine or from others developed by the trainee’s lab group. The mentor verifies participation in the lab group discussion.