# Research Integrity Officers' Responsibilities and Perspectives on Data Management Plan Compliance and Evaluation

## Introduction

The purpose of this study is to understand US Research Integrity Officers (RIOs) overall job responsibilities as well as perspectives on data management plans to fill a literature gap. DMPs are formal documents describing the roles and activities for managing data during and after research. Several US science funding agencies require researchers to submit one for any funding to outline data curation, including a variety of digital objects to enable reproducibility (e.g., notes, code, software).

## Methods

Interviews were conducted with twelve RIOs at top ten US universities, using a semi-structured interview questionnaire, informed by Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) topics and Data Curation Profile (DCP) protocol.

## Results

Responses to questions are in the tables. Nine participants mentioned faculty appointments and the average time as RIO was six years.

## Discussion

- RIO responsibilities and backgrounds vary
- DMPs are not currently on the radar for RIOs even as they may relate to RCR instruction and/or investigations
- More training is needed for RIOs of the research data lifecycle and data curation
- RIOs contribute to RCR efforts to promote research integrity, but are currently not included in data management training

## Conclusion

The study provides baseline results on RIOs' responsibilities and knowledge of DMPs. RIOs represented were from a variety of backgrounds, but consistencies emerged from their lack of RDM training and understanding of data management. As DMPs become more routine, RIOs will encounter more research misconduct that relates to data and DMPs.

## RIOs lack RDM training and awareness of DMPs, but these may be useful tools in inquiries

### Responsible Conduct of Research Training

|  | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Authorship, Publication, & Inventorship | 8 | 4 |
| Integrity and Information | 12 | 0 |
| Conflicts of Interest | 5 | 7 |
| Regulatory Basics for Human & Animal Subjects | 8 | 4 |
| Human Subject Research & Data | 8 | 4 |
| Use of Human Biological Materials | 4 | 8 |
| Societal Responsibility | 6 | 6 |

### Responsible for DMP compliance

|  | # |
|---|---|
| Principle Investigator | 8 |
| Chief Compliance Officer | 1 |
| IRB | 1 |
| Sponsored Programs | 1 |
| Nobody | 1 |

### Data Policies and Institutional Repositories

|  | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Does your institution have any ownership or disposition of data policies? | 12 | 0 |
| Does your institution support any institutional repositories for data? | 11 | 1 |

### Responsible Conduct of Research Training Models

|  | # |
|---|---|
| RIO-driven | 3 |
| Research Office-driven, but not RIO | 3 |
| Campus-wide RCR group | 3 |
| RCR course for all graduate students | 1 |
| General online RCR modules only | 1 |
| All RCR education done at department level | 1 |

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