



RESIDENZA UNIVERSITARIA
BIOMEDICA
FONDAZIONE COLLEGIO UNIVERSITARIO
S. CATERINA DA SIENA



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI PAVIA

COURSE ON ETHICS OF RESEARCH AND RRI

Proposal by: dr. Daniela Ovadia (ethicist), prof. Gabriella Bottini (neuroscientist)

Teaching ethics of research and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) at doctoral level in Universities is mandatory in most of European countries. Italy lacks of this tradition and expertise. We want to set up a first experimental interdisciplinary course in Ethics of Research and RRI for doctoral students at University of Pavia following the model proposed by the EU Commission. Our teaching goals for ethics of research fit into one of the following four general categories: **knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviors.**

Knowledge about the responsible conduct of research will include the facts, guidelines, policies, data and other sources of information.

Among the core competencies that we want our students to acquire there are:

- Knowledge of, and sensitivity to, issues surrounding the responsible conduct of research and research misconduct.
- Appreciation for accepted, normative scientific practices for conducting research.
- Awareness of the grey areas and ambiguities of ethical issues, including differences between compliant and ethical behaviour in the conduct of research, or the range of acceptable and unacceptable practices.
- Awareness that rules change over time and vary across disciplines or nations.
- Information about the regulations, policies, statutes, and guidelines that govern the conduct of research in PHS funded institutions.

Skills to promote ethical practice in science include specific proficiencies, for example:

- Ethical decision-making, including recognizing problems, identifying and examining assumptions underlying practices, using analytical skills and strategies in addressing issues and problems, and exploring implications of different courses of action.
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Conflict resolution, arbitration and mediation, people management
- Communication skills

Attitudes and behaviors, defined by an acceptance of the value of acting in ways which foster responsible conduct. This area of the course will focus on:

- Collection, use, and interpretation of research data
- Methods for reporting and reviewing research plans or findings
- Relationships among researchers with one another
- Relationships between researchers and those that will be affected by their research
- Means for responding to misunderstandings, disputes, or misconduct
- Options for promoting ethical conduct in research

In our course we will use frontal lessons and case studies approach, that will involve all the students and foster interaction and participation.

Simulation of ethics assessment procedures, ethics evaluation and interaction with the general public will also take place to allow the students to develop practical skills in the field.

The course will be divided in four 3-hours lessons in the second semester of the academic year.

(February 8, March 15, April 19, May 17 2017) (2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)

The official language of the course will be English.

The course will be held in Aula Magna “Maria Antonietta Sairani” – Residenza Universitaria

Biomedica – Fondazione Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena – Via L. Giulotto, 12 - Pavia

For information and to apply for: write to biomedica.segreteria@collegiosantacaterina.it phone number 0382 516762