Ethical Considerations in Research Considerations Conference Survey #1

Soon after the Ethical Considerations in Research Collaborations conference the UW Evaluation Team developed a survey to assess:

• 1) if the goals of the conference were accomplished,
• 2) if the best practices that were developed at the conference were applicable to participant situations / interests, and,
• 3) importantly, if participants would be willing to practice and assimilate what they learned at the conference into their circumstances by taking action related to the best practices of interest to them.

109 participants, or 50% of those surveyed, responded! The results of the survey are presented in the following slides. The Evaluation Team plans to conduct two additional follow – up surveys. Please direct any questions you may have about the surveys or results to the UW Evaluation Team to oriconf@uw.edu.
Q1. *Rate the degree to which this conference enabled you to obtain the following objectives:*

1. Discuss best practices that will promote a shared foundation for ethical academic-industry collaborations.

2. Explore the multitude of challenges involved in academic-industry relationships.

3. Promote understanding of cross-cultural and global ethical policies and processes.

4. Highlight resources and best practices for researchers involved in cross-cultural and international research collaborations.

5. Discuss the ethical standards for minimizing risk when building research repositories and when sharing primary data and biological samples.

6. Foster discussion of how to best promote a conscience of integrity and ethical conduct among biomedical and public health researchers and the students whom they teach and mentor.
Q2. Are your interests for attending the conference mainly INSTITUTIONAL or INDIVIDUAL?

- Individual (22%)
- Institutional (78%)

% Respondents
A. Actively promote the idea that mentoring is an essential part of ethical research collaboration (to establish a mentoring “culture”).
B. Develop/refine better guidelines for assuring that a sound research collaboration mentorship program is in place in my institution (make mentoring a priority).
C. Develop new and/or refine clearer guidelines for defining, communicating (educating) & managing conflict of interest AND for making knowledge thereof ubiquitous.
D. Promote a “conflict of interest mitigation” culture based on “disclose, disclose, disclose” that assures scientifically sound, transparent and ethical action.
E. Develop more dynamic & responsive compliance governance systems for assuring ethical, responsive & flexible research collaborations throughout the institution.
F. Take steps to maximize respect and trust in building collaborative relationships between researchers and participant/subject/collaborators.
G. Better educate all stakeholders about the essence of cross-cultural research and how they can develop culturally-competent approaches when designing collaborative research.
H. Take steps to assure that both academia and industry get to know their counterpart’s circumstances, needs, expectations and mutual interests.
I. Develop/refine guidelines for assuring that academic/industry collaborations are based on mutually-developed operational agreements (pre-nuptials) that clearly specify expectations, goals, milestones & deliverables.
J. Actively promote familiarity and trust by providing opportunities for mutual exchanges of academic and industrial scientists. EXPERIENCE.

Q3a. Designate what Institutional Best Practices (developed at the conference) are of particular interest and which you plan to take specific action on in the next 2-6 months.
Q3b. Designate what Individual Best Practices (developed at the conference) are of particular interest and which you plan to take specific action on in the next 2-6 months.

A. Actively promote the idea that mentoring is an essential part of ethical research collaboration (to establish a mentoring “culture”).

B. Better educate myself about "conflict of interest" and why recognizing and managing it is essential to my career as an ethical collaborative researcher. (AND educating my colleagues too!).

C. Promote a “conflict of interest mitigation” culture based on “disclose, disclose, disclose” that assures scientifically sound, transparent and ethical action.

D. Take steps to build collaborative relationships based on mutual respect and trust between researchers and participant/subject/collaborators.

E. Better educate myself about the essence of cross-cultural research and how to develop culturally-competent approaches when designing collaborative research.

F. Take steps to clearly understand the differences between research governed by grants and contracts.

G. Better educate myself about the importance of establishing & maintaining open lines of communication with industrial counterparts; these are the foundation for ethical research collaborations.
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What is/are the most important “TAKE – HOME POINT(s)” and/or INSIGHT(s) that occurred to you?
(selected from 47 comments)

• “We are all responsible for making ethics in research a practice and not just an idea.”
• “Research ethics' should be part of the 'culture', not just a list of things one should and shouldn't do. It needs to be a fundamental part of the 'scientific process', not an after thought.”

• “Discussions at the conference deepened my understanding of the meaning of "capacity building" and how it can be built into proposed international collaborations, particularly with regard to the ethical conduct of research.”

• “How incredibly important it is to emphasize ethics and not take for granted that everyone will act ethically or morally in research. Also some important cross-cultural differences and how our language can be taken out of context.”

• “That even when individuals have decent ethical standards, they can act counter to those standards when faced with decisions that affect their own self-interest. A culture of ethical conduct is the a good way to contain and minimize individual ethical breaches.”

• “The complications of cross-cultural work. The real need for mentoring. I thought the small groups and the interactive large session were very helpful.”

• “The value of respecting the human subject when it comes to using their biological samples for some purpose other than the originally agreed-upon one.”
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