

# **Other Investigator Responsibilities**

## **1 General Responsibilities of an Investigator on a Sponsored Project**

**The following are among the responsibilities of an investigator on a sponsored project:**

- To create the project
- To obtain assurance of the availability of the facilities needed to conduct the research
- To write the funding proposals in accordance with University and agency requirements
- To assemble the necessary staff to conduct and complete the project
- To maintain academic and research integrity and conduct the research in a timely and professional manner and in compliance with the specific terms of the grant or contract
- To ensure that the research is conducted in compliance with University and government regulations, including concern for health and safety, human subjects, and animals used in research, and avoidance of conflict of interest
- To conduct the project in a manner consistent with the teaching and research mission of the University
- To authorize expenditures in a manner consistent with the approved budget for the project
- To review carefully the financial reports
- To submit progress and final reports as may be required under the terms of the award
- To report patentable and commercially valuable findings to the Office of Technology Management
- To acknowledge all sponsors of the research project in any publication, presentation, or other public communication regarding the research

## **2 Responsibilities to the Scholarly Community**

**The following are among the responsibilities of an investigator to the scholarly community:**

- To publish research findings in a timely manner
- To screen papers voluntarily for security risks by refraining from publication of information that could be useful to bioterrorists or developers of bioweapons working for rogue nations. The report of the panel of the National Research Council that made this recommendation may be accessed as a 2004 book, *Biotechnology Research in an Age of Terrorism*, at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10827.html>. Many biological journals are assuming the role of screening manuscripts from this point of view.
- To accept requests to participate, when possible, in the peer review process that judges the quality of manuscripts submitted for publication and proposals submitted for research funding
- To make timely, objective, and non-biased judgments during peer review
- To maintain the confidentiality of the peer review process
- To refrain from utilizing the material in a reviewed manuscript for one's own research until the original material is published or presented publicly.
- To publish negative as well as positive results, if the findings are conclusive
- To submit, in the case of NIH-funded research, manuscripts accepted for publication to a free searchable archive

## **3 Collaborative Research**

- A researcher should be open to collaborative work with researchers having different but complementary special skills and disciplinary backgrounds, whether at the University of Pittsburgh, elsewhere in the United States, or even in foreign countries.
- Clear understandings should be made near the beginning of any collaboration of the respective roles of the partners, of the credit each partner will receive through authorship of joint papers and royalties from any patents, and of the responsibility of each collaborator in presentation and defense of the ultimate research findings.

- In the event of a break-up of the collaboration, attempts should be made to negotiate amicably the respective future tracks the partners will follow in continuing the work.
- Early agreements should be made about each partner's share of research materials and access to the data. (See Sections [1.6](#) and [2.5](#).)