

# Ethics in Science Oncology 715

Instructors: Janet Mertz and Michael Gould

Course Director: Janet Mertz

Credits: 1

When: Thursdays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Note: this course meets only during the first half of the semester.

First class meeting is February 1, 2018 (NOT January 25<sup>th</sup>).

Where: WIMR tower II, room 6571 (6<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Note: Your Wiscard will grant you access to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of WIMR tower II to attend class.

**Description:** The objective of this course is to teach graduate students and postdoctoral fellows about ethical issues in science and how to go about trying to resolve them. The course is mostly organized around short lectures followed by small group, roundtable discussions of specific case studies in which issues commonly faced by scientists are considered. Topics will include: assignment of credit and authorship, privileged communications, appropriate recording and treatment of data, scientific misconduct, dual-use research, intellectual property, use of animals and humans in research, conflicts of interest, and issues related to gender and minority equity. Students prepare written assignments for each case study **prior** to its discussion in class. Faculty provide introductory lectures on each issue and, in some cases, experts on particular subjects will present guest lectures. Student-led roundtable discussions are designed to allow each group to develop well-reasoned, morally-based solutions to the ethical dilemmas being discussed.

**Class Format:** After an introduction by faculty to the topics of focus for the afternoon, you will break out into assigned small groups in which you will compare how each of you might deal with the issues raised by the case studies. For each session, one of the students in each group will be assigned the role of 'facilitator' for each case to be discussed; that person's role is to ensure that the discussion keeps on track, that all aspects of the issues are fully discussed, and that all members of the group are provided ample opportunities to express their views. Another group member will serve as "note taker"; s/he will be responsible for briefly summarizing the findings from the group. These roles will rotate from week to week among the group members so that everyone has an opportunity to serve as a facilitator or note taker. The faculty will contribute to the discussion with the goal of priming discussion of other viewpoints, providing additional factual information related to the topics, and bringing up related issues that might arise during discussion of the cases.

**Course Grade** will be S/U. You are expected to attend **all** classes, **sign the attendance sheet** for yourself and no one else at the beginning of class, turn in all written assignments, and actively participate in the discussions to receive an S grade. Written assignments consisting of a few lines of text without substantive content are unacceptable. If you are unable to attend a class because of illness or a significant scheduling conflict (e.g., attendance at a scientific conference), please email the course director with your reason for absence and your written responses to the homework assignment. Classroom discussions are an important component of this course. Thus, one should try to avoid having to miss class. If you already know that you will likely need to miss class more than once, you should probably arrange to take a different ethics course or wait until spring 2019 to take this one given it only meets seven times.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

February 1	Focus: <b>Ethical Reasoning; Authorship</b> Discussion Leader: Janet Mertz
February 8	Focus: <b>Conflicts of Interest; Biosafety and Dual-Use Research of Concern</b> Discussion Leaders: Michael Gould and Janet Mertz
February 15	Focus: <b>Data Analysis; Scientific Misconduct</b> Discussion Leader: Michael Gould
February 22	Focus: <b>Patents and Material Transfer Agreements</b> Guest Speaker: Pilar Ossario, Ph.D., J.D.
March 1	Focus: <b>Discrimination; Interpersonal Relationships</b> Discussion Leader: Janet Mertz
March 8	Focus: <b>Animal and Human Subject Research</b> Discussion Leader: Michael Gould
March 15	Focus: <b>"The Wisconsin Cystic Fibrosis Newborn Screening Study"</b> Guest Speaker: Norman Fost, M.D., M.P.H

### **Your Responsibilities for the first class meeting** are to do the following:

- 1) Read the attached article entitled "Developing a Well-Reasoned Response to a Moral Problem in Scientific Research".
- 2) Look over the book *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, National Academy Press, Washington D. C., 2009 located at:  
[http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\\_id=12192&page=1](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12192&page=1)  
Read the sections entitled, Sharing of Research Results (pp. 29-34), and Authorship and the Allocation of Credit (pp. 35-38).
- 3) Read over: <https://kb.wisc.edu/gsadminkb/page.php?id=33393> and <https://kb.wisc.edu/gsadminkb/page.php?id=33388> and
- 4) Read over: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/17/science/open-science-challenges-journal-tradition-with-web-collaboration.html>
- 5) Look at this web site: <http://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism>
- 6) Read over: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2012/05/one-two-hotly-debated-h5n1-papers-finally-published>
- 7) Read the attachment related to requirements for authorship.
- 8) Using the approach proposed in item 1 above for addressing ethical issues, answer the questions associated with each of the attached case studies, justifying your answers.

Be prepared to hand in your **typed** answers to those questions at the end of class.

During the course of this class, you should also familiarize yourself with the rest of the content of *On Being a Scientist* and the UW-Madison research-related materials located at <https://kb.wisc.edu/gsadminkb/page.php?id=33279>