

## IN THIS ISSUE

---

1. IRB Self-exemption Determination Tool
2. IACUC Office: AAALAC Visit
3. Updated NSF RCR Training
4. UC Research Data Policy
5. NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy
6. Research Security Program
7. Meet the RCI Staff



## IRB Self-Exemption Determination Tool

The [Self-Exemption Determination Tool](#) has been live for 6-months! For those studies that qualify the tool may be used to self-determine certain types of exempt research at UC Merced. This tool streamlines the exemption process for researchers providing administrative burden relief for the IRB office and researchers. As a result, our office is working hard to implement a more structured and formalized IRB program and are in the process of creating specialized guidance documents to assist researchers in navigating the complex human subjects research regulations. We hope to have new guidance documents available soon!

## AAALAC Visit

UC Merced hosted representatives from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) on July 6, 2023, and we are pleased to announce that our site visit went extremely well! The site visitors praised UC Merced's animal care and use program, specifically citing our excellent staff (animal care and administrative), program growth and direction, IACUC efforts, safety initiatives, our clean and organized facilities, and the general professional and collegial experience they had on our campus. Their findings are still preliminary but were few and our office will work diligently to address them quickly and efficiently. Although we likely will not hear back for a few months, we are hopeful that AAALAC will award UC Merced full accreditation soon. The IACUC office would like to thank all those involved in making our site visit a true success!



## Updated NSF RCR Training

The National Science Foundation (NSF) views the responsible and ethical conduct of research (RECR) as critical for achieving excellence and maintaining public trust in science and engineering. Consequently, effective for all NSF proposals awarded after July 31, 2023, NSF is requiring everyone – from undergraduate students, graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and other senior personnel – to undergo RECR training. NSF also requires mentoring training for faculty and senior personnel. Details of this new requirement are [posted here](#).

The Research Compliance and Integrity Office provides the following RECR trainings options.

1. **Online Training:** UC Merced has contracted with the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) to provide online training in RCR.

[UC Merced instructions for using the CITI course](#)

[Go to the CITI homepage and register to get started](#)

The RCR courses available on CITI include:

- Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research Course: For investigators, staff members and students in biomedical research
- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research Course: for investigators, staff members and students in social and behavioral research
- Physical Science Responsible Conduct of Research Course: for investigators, staff members and students in physical science research
- Humanities Responsible Conduct of Research Course: for investigators, staff members and students with an interest or focus in humanities research

If you are unsure which course to select, please contact the Office of Research Compliance and Integrity at [rci@ucmerced.edu](mailto:rci@ucmerced.edu)

2. **In-Person Training:** The Office of Research Compliance and Integrity will perform in-person RCR training for lab groups, graduate groups or classes, post-doctorate groups, etc., by request. All in-person training sessions must have at least eight people in attendance. To set up an in-person RCR training session for any campus group, please contact [RCI@ucmerced.edu](mailto:RCI@ucmerced.edu).

## UC Research Data Policy

The University of California issued a [Research Data Policy](#), effective July 15, 2022, that clarified "*the Regents of the University of California owns Research Data generated or collected in the course of University Research, and exercises this responsibility to support research, collaboration, public dissemination of information, and to meet its responsibility under sponsored research awards and other research agreements.*"

The RCI Office has finalized local procedures for this policy.

Outgoing research data generated as part of research conducted at UC Merced is subject to approval by the Principal Investigator and any applicable sponsor requirements. In addition, researchers must contact the [Office of Technology, Innovation, and Industry Relations \(OTIIR\)](#) to initiate a Data Transfer and Use Agreement (DTUA) before taking or transferring copies of the research data outside of UC Merced. A DTUA authorizes the transfer of a data set for specified limited purposes (e.g., conducting human research).

Learn more about the UC Research Data Policy and our local implementation on the [RCI Website](#).

## NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a [Final NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing](#) to promote the sharing of scientific data. As of January 25, 2023, NIH required researchers to submit a plan outlining how scientific data from their research will be managed and shared. The policy also establishes the expectation for maximizing the appropriate sharing of scientific data generated from NIH-funded or conducted research, with justified limitations or exceptions.

Review the requirements of the policy [here](#).

UC Merced has [resources](#) to assist researchers in planning and developing data management and sharing plans.

Other federal agencies have varying requirements for data management plans, and almost all of them have a data sharing policy. Many agencies have subdivisions that have additional requirements. The RCI Office has compiled a list of each agency's home page and links to their data management plan requirements and data sharing policies. Find this information on our [website](#).

## RESEACH SECURITY PROGRAM

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has released a draft of the [Research Security Program Standards](#). Institutions receiving more than \$50 million a year in federal support must establish a research security program.

The implementation of the Research Security Program Standards is part of the [National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 \(NSPM-33\)](#), a directive from the executive branch intended to safeguard the security and integrity of federally funded research. NSPM-33 mandates the establishment of research security programs to protect against foreign government interference and exploitation at research institutions receiving federal funds.

The RCI Office will be collaborating with other offices across campus to implement the Research Security Program Standards once they are finalized by OSTP. The implementation of the research security program will require all researchers who receive federal funding to complete research security training and export control training. Our office currently provides [export control training](#) via the UC Learning Center. Researchers who receive federal funding may chose to complete the export control training now.

The table below summarizes the draft Research Security Program Standards.

Cybersecurity	Foreign Travel Security	Research Security Training	Export Control Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement safeguarding protocols and procedures for information systems used to store, transmit, and conduct federally funded R&amp;D               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Includes 12 requirements for safeguarding information systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International travel policy</li> <li>• Record of covered international travel</li> <li>• As appropriate:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Disclosure &amp; Authorization prior to travel</li> <li>➤ Security briefings</li> <li>➤ Electronic device security guidance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial and refresher training for appropriate personnel on research security threat awareness, identification, and insider threats.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Requires training in 9 specific areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required for personnel that conduct R&amp;D subject to export controls</li> <li>• Include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Requirements &amp; processes for review of foreign sponsors &amp; collaborations</li> <li>➤ Compliance with export controls/restricted entity lists</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Meet The RCI Staff



Leslie Teixeira-Porto, MA  
Assistant Vice Chancellor  
& Export Control Officer  
(209) 228-4613, (209) 259-8335  
[lteixeira@ucmerced.edu](mailto:lteixeira@ucmerced.edu)



Danielle Benzinger, MA  
Assistant Director, Research Subjects  
Protection  
(209) 228-4805  
[ddaire@ucmerced.edu](mailto:dtaire@ucmerced.edu)



Chou Xiong  
Research Compliance Analyst, COI,  
Export Controls, Foreign Engagement,  
RCR, Research Security  
(209) 228-0089  
[cxiong51@ucmerced.edu](mailto:cxiong51@ucmerced.edu)



Rhanda Rylant  
Research Compliance Analyst,  
Research Subjects Protection  
(209) 228-4450  
[rlylant2@ucmerced.edu](mailto:rlylant2@ucmerced.edu)



Isaura Macias  
Research Compliance Analyst,  
Research Subjects Protection  
[imacias@ucmerced.edu](mailto:imacias@ucmerced.edu)



Shamima Islam  
Research Compliance  
Analyst, COI, Export  
Controls, Foreign  
Engagement, RCR, Research  
Security  
[sislam9@ucmerced.edu](mailto:sislam9@ucmerced.edu)

## Contact the RCI Office

Mailing Address:  
Office of Research Compliance and Integrity  
University of California, Merced  
5200 N. Lake Road  
Merced, CA 95340

Campus Internal Mailing Address:  
Office of Research Compliance and Integrity  
Downtown Campus Center Building

Telephone:  
209-228-4805

General Email:  
[rci@ucmerced.edu](mailto:rci@ucmerced.edu)  
IRB: [irboffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:irboffice@ucmerced.edu)  
IACUC: [iacucoffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:iacucoffice@ucmerced.edu)  
Export Controls: [exportcontrols@ucmerced.edu](mailto:exportcontrols@ucmerced.edu)  
COI: [COI@ucmerced.edu](mailto:COI@ucmerced.edu)  
Foreign Engagements: [foreignengagement@ucmerced.edu](mailto:foreignengagement@ucmerced.edu)