Global Perspectives on Doctoral Supervisor Training in Research Integrity

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Disclaimers

These are just my opinions and not necessarily those of my employer
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I often work in research integrity issues with my dear sister, Roxana L.

This talk is primarily based in my experiences directing the Epidemiological Research Doctoral Program at Cayetano University in Peru
Epidemiological Research Doctorate @ UPCH

• Doctoral program created in 2016 after eight cohorts of our Epi Master’s program

• Three-year, 64-credit doctoral program with heavy emphasis in research methods, biostatistics and epidemiology coursework

• Program supported by the Peruvian Science Council and the US Fogarty Center, and led by Peruvian PhDs primarily trained in the US and Europe

• Students are integrated into research groups at UPCH and elsewhere in Perú, and assigned thesis advisors among foreign-trained PhD faculty
Research integrity training

- First quarter, one credit-hour, eight session research integrity and ethics course

- Contents include plagiarism, cheating, falsification and fabrication, in addition to questionable practice

- Experiences responding to plagiarism cases at the Master’s program are discussed in detail

- Course requirements include an online research integrity (CRI) course (next page)

- Students complete a group project describing a type of research misconduct in Latin America based on published evidence and grey literature
Presentación del curso

La tarea de la comunidad científica es la de crear nuevo conocimiento a través de la investigación. Los investigadores buscan entender y mejorar el mundo en que vivimos. Y la sociedad desea y necesita creer en los resultados de las investigaciones. Por eso, la actividad científica debe desarrollarse en base a la honestidad, el análisis riguroso de los datos, el compromiso con la verdad y el seguimiento de...
Research advising

• Students are assigned a thesis advisor ("director")
  • UPCH faculty and PhD epidemiologist trained in the US or Europe
  • Conducts research as his/her primary academic activity
  • Primarily young or mid-career investigators with active research support

• Students join a research group/unit at UPCH or elsewhere with active international research support
  • Thesis research should be nested within existing research projects
  • Head of research group/unit or appointee acts as thesis co-director

• Thesis advisor provides methodological support and research unit provides thematic expertise, in addition to faculty support during courseworks discussion of thesis proposals
Research integrity training among advisors

• Many participated in 2013 “Mentoring the mentors” international course offered by UCSF (Normahomed 2019)

• All advisors have also completed the research integrity (CRI) online course at UPCH, due to national (2015) and institutional (2017) requirements

• Most advisors have also completed research integrity training during their own doctorates (half at Johns Hopkins)

• Research integrity is always mentioned in by-annual faculty discussions
Research integrity in dissertation research

• Thesis proposals and dissertations both complete similarity assessments using Turnitin®

• Students under scholarships or dissertations supported by US federally-funded grants (usually from the Fogarty Center) often complete additional research integrity training and certifications

• In general, most doctorates conduct their dissertations in an environment of international standards of research integrity
Summary

• Leadership roles of internationally-trained faculty within the doctorate elevate the role of research integrity, particularly among thesis supervisors

• Highly competitive research environment at UPCH and Peru reproduce most elements of international research integrity training

• National and institutional research integrity regulations provide greater visibility and priority to this critical issue