

# Research in Action Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

# Dr. Jim Kroll on Research Misconduct [32:29]

## Research in Action - Episode 5

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### Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest Dr. Jim Kroll, the Director of Research Integrity and Administrative Investigations for the National Science Foundation’s Office of the Inspector General, where he has worked since 2001. In this role, Jim is primarily responsible for leading the investigation and resolution of all allegations that, if substantiated, would result in administrative action rather than civil or criminal prosecution. These include such things as allegations of research misconduct under NSF proposals and awards; certain types of employee misconduct; and violations of NSF regulations, policy or directives. Prior to working for the OIG, Jim served 21 years as a meteorological officer with the U.S. Air Force. Jim completed his undergraduate studies at Rutgers University where he received his B.S. in Meteorology. He later attended North Carolina State University where he received his M.S. and his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences.

*Segment One* [00:00-9:47] - In this segment, Jim and the host talk about what the Office of the Inspector General is and the role that Jim plays in that office.

*Segment Two* [9:48-21:23] - In this segment, Jim and the host talk about the general procedure when the OIG is made aware of potential research misconduct. Jim shares some of the sources of allegations and offers some examples of cases he has worked on.

*Segment Three* [21:24-32:29] - In this segment, Jim and the host discuss Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirements from NSF and Jim’s recommendation for the training of new researchers..

*Bonus Clip # 1: [00:00-6:11]:* Examples of Research Misconduct cases

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be

found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e5/>

### Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Define research misconduct
- Discuss examples of research misconduct
- State some of the main functions in the Office of the Inspector General at the National Science Foundation
- Describe the initial process of a research misconduct allegation once it reaches the Office of the Inspector General at the National Science Foundation
- Explain the steps involved in administrative action
- Define Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
- Describe some of the challenges in implementing RCR training
- Discuss the role of a research mentor with regard to RCR

### Guiding Questions for Listening

- What is the Office of the Inspector General at the National Science Foundation and what are its main functions?
- When the NSF OIG researches an allegation, what are some of the initial steps of this process?
- According to Jim Kroll, what appear to be some of the more recent trends of research misconduct cases with NSF?
- Where does Jim Kroll say a larger number of allegations seem to come from and why does he think research misconduct cases appear to be on the rise?
- How do research misconduct cases reach the OIG at

the NSF?

- What are some of the challenges with the investigation of data fabrication cases?
- What steps are taken if a case results in administrative action with the NSF?
- What is Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) and why is it important?
- What appear to be some potential limitations with RCR and CITI training?
- How might a research mentor benefit a student's understanding of RCR?
- What is an example of a fraud case in research misconduct? (see also, bonus clip)

## Possible Activities

- Have students visit the NSF OIG website and explore the resources offered here: <http://www.nsf.gov/oig/>
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e5/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e5/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Give students a reading about a recent case of research misconduct from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* or *Inside Higher Education*. Have them describe the case and discuss (either in-class or online) how the misconduct could have been prevented based on what they learned from Jim Kroll in this episode.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they Dr. Jim Kroll if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

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## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

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“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

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