Welcome

This is the second edition of the Office of Research Ethics and Integrity (OREI) newsletter. The purpose is to keep researchers informed about issues in the Research Ethics and Integrity space both locally and globally.

In this edition, read about:

- Data sharing – new guidance from the NHMRC
- The Equator Network
- Tips in selecting a quality journal
- What's been happening in OREI
- Training in research ethics and integrity at QUT
- Using prize draws in human research – new guidance!
- Terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey guidelines

You will find information on the ethics application process and guidelines for responsible research practices on the OREI webpage.
Spotlight on data sharing

The importance of data sharing is recognised and strongly endorsed by funding agencies and other organisations. The NHMRC is no outlier, with its recently released [Statement on Data Sharing](#) encouraging data sharing and access to data arising from NHMRC supported research. This aligns with researchers’ responsibilities under the [Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (section 2.5-2.7): “Research data should be made available for use by the other researchers unless this is prevented by ethical, privacy or confidentiality matters.” The Statement provides a guide for researchers to consider when planning and conducting research. So check it out and consider how to implement data sharing in your research.

This NHMRC’s commitment echoes the sentiments of international funding agencies. The [Joint Statement by funders of health research](#) released by the Wellcome Trust demonstrates a commitment to increase the availability of research data and to promote the efficient use of those data to accelerate improvements in public health. The Statement establishes guiding principles and goals to promote greater access to and use of data that are equitable, ethical and efficient.

Responsible data sharing accelerates the pace of discovery and enhances the efficiency of the research enterprise. The world is changing and QUT with it.

EQUATOR Network

[Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research](#) (EQUATOR) is an international initiative that seeks to improve the reliability and value of published health research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting and wider use of robust reporting guidelines. It provides reporting guidelines across a
number of disciplines and is an essential resource for new and experience authors.

See the Research Waste/EQUATOR Increasing value and reducing waste in biomedical research Conference to be held 28 – 30 September 2015, Edinburgh, UK or keep your eye out for the action plan against Research Waste.

What journal shall I publish in?

If you are looking to publish in a quality journal, the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing can help you make a selection. The document sets a minimum criteria for journals and publishers to be assessed against when they apply for membership with Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME). Remember, you can also seek advice from the QUT Librarians.

Another tool is the Beall’s List of Predatory Open Access Publishers which provides a list of potential, possible or probable predatory scholarly open-access journals.

What’s been happening in OREI

We welcome the following new staff to assist the research community and the University in meeting their obligations:

Ms Leanne Kennedy – Defence Trade Controls Officer

Dr Mark Hooper – Education and Cultural Change Coordinator

Prof Virginia (Ginny) Barbour – Prof Barbour has been employed one day a week for 6 months as a joint initiative between OREI and TILS. Prof Barbour is Executive Officer of the Australian Open Access Support Group and was one of the three founding editors of PLOS Medicine in 2004. She is the current Chair of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) which contributed to reporting guidelines including CONSORT, PRISMA and TIDieR statements. You may also want to read Prof Barbour’s publication in the Conversation today - What to believe in the new world of open access publishing.

We also welcome back Ashley Steele, Research Governance and Compliance Coordinator. Ashley has returned from a six month trip overseas, during which she was able to visit a number of leading Universities and organisations in the United States and Canada including Stanford University, University of Michigan, Iowa University, Cleveland Clinic and the Secretariat for the Responsible Conduct of Research (Canada) to look at their research governance and integrity arrangements.
## Training and development

### Research integrity drop-in clinics

OREI has started an informal and interactive ‘drop-in’ session designed to assist QUT researchers and students in the principles of responsible conduct of research, including data management, authorship, conflicts of interest, peer review and publication. For dates and to register, see [OREI training webpage](#).

### Research ethics training

If you’d like advice in preparing a quality human research or animal ethics application or you’d like to refresh your knowledge in the principles and guidelines that govern human and animal research, register to attend one of our [ethics training sessions](#).

### Biosafety training

If you working with biologicals or quarantine material, you will need to complete some training depending on your qualifications, experience and the nature of your work. For upcoming training sessions, visit the [OREI training webpage](#).

## Using prize draws to incentivise participants

Complete this survey and you will have a chance to win…$1 million dollars! (just kidding). We’ve all seen (and glossed over) the fine print in entering prize draws. The fine print is there not only because it is a requirement of gambling legislation but also because it provides people with information about what they are entitled to, when and how.

Offering prize draws in research is not outside the requirements of legislation.

To assist you to comply with the legislation when conducting your research, OREI has drafted new guidelines titled [Research Methods – Incentivising Participants – Game of Chance and Game of Skill](#). The guidance covers topics such as the information participants need, types of draw systems, and items that cannot be used as a prize e.g. tobacco, alcohol etc.

In addition, we have also worked with KeySurvey to create a link so you can add the terms and conditions to your survey. A paper-based option is also available. It’s that easy!
If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the Research Ethics Advisory Team (ethicscontact@qut.edu.au).

Terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey guidelines

Attention animal wildlife researchers, for your interest and reference, the Terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey guidelines released by the Queensland Government provides useful guidance on fauna survey sampling, site selection, handling animals, survey methods and habitat and condition assessment. There are also various field data sheets for selected species listed on the same website. We encourage you to read and refer to the information in your ethics applications.