

New College of Medicine Research Compliance Training

In a recent article about conflicts of interest in research and medical education, Scott Harris states “When the academic world comes in contact with the business world, good things often happen. New pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and other treatments and technologies reach the market-and help patients-every day as a result of their teamwork.”¹ He adds, however, that the system isn’t perfect and conflicts arise that can cloud judgment.

In an effort to enhance understanding about potential or perceived conflicts of interest, The Pennsylvania State University’s College of Medicine has joined with Penn State Hershey Medical Center to provide a one-time **mandatory** Web-based training on **Research Compliance: Conflicts of Interest and Scientific Misconduct**. All College of Medicine faculty, postdoctoral fellows/associates, research technicians and laboratory attendants must complete the 93 minute training by **July 1, 2007**.

Health Care Compliance Strategies (HCCS) has provided an interactive computer training program, which incorporates text, audio, and video in engaging and realistic scenarios. Several important features allow employees to complete training in segments of time. A “Take Control” function allows employees to exit the course if needed or to “Take a Break” which allows employees to interrupt training and pause the program for thirty (30) minutes. If training does not resume within thirty minutes, the session will be closed out. The next time the employee logs on; the training will start where he or she left off.

The course is easy to access. There is a link to the Web-based training on the Office of Research Affairs homepage at <http://www.hmc.psu.edu/ora>, or from the Compliance Office site at <http://inonet.hmc.psu.edu/compliance>. User ID numbers have been assigned for each individual. Users will log in by specifying their first name, last name, and for the login ID, the first four letters of their last name + last six digits of their PSU ID number which is located at the bottom of the employee ID badge (e.g. Log in: Joe Jones and ID#: jone123456). Users with last names of fewer than four letters will put in their complete last name for the login ID + last six digits of their PSU ID number. The screen after login is entitled Job Function. Please choose “College of Medicine Employees” as the drop-down menu selection.

Physicians employed by clinical departments are already taking this program as part of their annual compliance training which is required as part of the Corporate Integrity Agreement with the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Additional information will be forthcoming but if you have questions, please contact the Office of Research Affairs at 531-8495.

¹Harris, Scott, “Conflicts of Interest Targeted in Research, Medical Education”, AAMC Reporter, Vol. 16, No. 6, March 2007, pages 6-7.