

The research enterprise is built on a foundation of trust and this trust will endure only if the research community devotes itself to ethical and responsible conduct in research. Engaging in inappropriate behavior damages the research enterprise, is a misuse of public funds, and undermines the trust of society in science. At a time when scientific advances are considered to be critical in areas such as economic competitiveness, health, national security, and environmental protection, every research is obligated to ensure the highest levels of integrity in research [lifted from Global Science Forum – with minor changes].

Consequences of unethical/irresponsible research [need to include data from Nature article re: the effects of misconduct on research]

- Negative impact to your career and reputation as a researcher
- Civil and criminal actions
- Public welfare. Harm to individuals and to society, if faulty research results in the release of an unsafe product or process (e.g., a drug or a therapy). Society may be harmed if false results become widely known and believed.
- Damage to the research record [social/scientific progress], by creating false leads for other researchers to follow, and/or forcing others to waste time, effort and money to reproduce faulty results. Although the research record is inherently self-correcting, since repeatability, verifiability and consistency are hallmarks of the scientific method, incorrect results can persist and mislead for extended periods of time. [perpetuation of conclusions from retracted manuscripts]
- The degradation of relations within the larger research community
- Damage to the perceived value of the research enterprise through the undermining of the public's trust in research results, and of the government's ability to foster and promote research in a competent and responsible manner. Repercussions can affect public policy decisions in such areas as health, environment, energy, national security, which often involve a major scientific component