Introduction to Ethical Aspects of Scientific Work

PSCT 4444
February 6th, 2009

What is ethics?

"Dictionary definition: (1) the study of standards of conduct and moral judgement. (2) the system of morals of a particular person, religion, group, etc.


A Look at Some Case Studies

- Groups of two-three
- You will be given a sample case study of a scientific ethical dilemma
- Visit in your group for about 30 minutes to attempt to answer the questions posed in your case study
- Add questions if you feel moved to do so
- Have a spokesperson summarize the case study for the class and give the group’s answers to the questions posed

Compilation of Thoughts

- In looking at all of the case studies, can you identify general categories of ethics concerns to be considered in science?
- Can you think of other categories not represented by these case studies?

Some categories to consider

- Experimental Techniques and the Treatment of Data
- Values in Science
- Conflict of Interest
- Publications and Openness
- The Allocation of Credit
- Authorship Practices
- Error and Negligence in Science
- Misconduct in Science
(See reference at end of presentation)

Examples of Citing Authors and Roles

Rodgers – Graduate Advisor
Ford – Acquired data/already graduated. An asterisk indicates Ford at Halliburton at the time of publication.
Buckley – Worked data/wrote article
Reference


Third edition is coming out about April 1, 2009