The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to scientific and ethical integrity as well as academic excellence in all research activities with which our students, faculty, and staff are associated. The Office of Research Integrity (part of the Research & Innovation Office) supports these needs via the following units:

- Conflicts of Interest & Commitment
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Export Controls
- Human Research & IRB
- Animal Care & Use Program
- Controlled Substances

**Conflicts of Interest & Commitment**

CU Boulder encourages innovation, scholarship and research that lead to commercial and consulting activities and global engagement. Such activities, however, have the potential to lead to conflicts of interest and commitment.

Areas of concern include:

- Scientific integrity
- Protection of students’ academic interests and progression
- Protection of human subjects
- Protection of intellectual property
- Misuse of university funds, services or facilities

All faculty, and any other employee or student with responsibility for the design, conduct or reporting of research are considered critical to the research process and must disclose all significant (financial) interests and external professional activities that could compromise (or appear to compromise) university decision-making or duties. The annual DEPA reporting period is January 15 to March 31. Updates should be added throughout the year, as necessary. New CU Boulder employees and students who are engaged in research activities should submit a DEPA within 30 days of their official start date.

**Responsible Conduct of Research**

CU Boulder is committed to performing original research and providing scientific training using the **highest standards and best practices of ethics and the responsible conduct of research** (RCR). The National Institutes of Health define RCR as “the practice of scientific investigation with integrity,” involving “the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research.” CU Boulder has the responsibility to foster a research environment that promotes RCR, discourages research misconduct, and deals promptly with allegations or evidence of possible misconduct. RCR training is strongly encouraged for everyone engaging in research.
The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at CU Boulder is responsible for the review of all human subject research when conducted by the university’s faculty, staff, students or other affiliates and agents. The mission of the IRB is to protect the rights and welfare of subjects involved in Human Research.

Human Research & IRB

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at CU Boulder is responsible for the review of all human subject research when conducted by the university’s faculty, staff, students or other affiliates and agents. The mission of the IRB is to protect the rights and welfare of subjects involved in Human Research.

Animal Care & Use Program

The Animal Care & Use Program at CU Boulder is comprised of the Office of Animal Resources (OAR), Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Occupational Health & Safety, and all active researchers in labs or in the field. All research, teaching and testing projects involving vertebrate animal use at CU Boulder must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to engaging in the project.

Controlled Substances

Controlled substance use in research and teaching activities on the CU Boulder campus is managed through a decentralized process. All university employees who are conducting research or teaching activities that involve controlled substances must comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding their use; obtain necessary DEA registrations for the researcher; adhere to controlled substance storage, inventory maintenance and disposal requirements; and comply with reporting and record keeping requirements.