

The European Federation of National Academies
of Sciences and Humanities

All European Academies



Responsible conduct in science

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Attacks on autonomy of science

- Critical political movement against established science
- Utilization of science
- Value-free versus value-bound science discussion



Value-free or value-bound?

- Value-free: Science is about how things are, not what they should be; scientific knowledge has no moral connotation.
- Value-bound:
 - paradigmatic presumptions
 - no clear cut distinction basic – applied
 - reality is affected by science
 - probabilities and risks not value-free
 - justification of choice of subject



External problems

- Choice of research topic
- Independence of sponsors employers, clients and other interested parties?
- Responsibility for application and use
- Ethical consequences of new scientific insights



'No go' or 'slow go' decisions?

- Possible misuse is no argument
- Discussion on constraints to be imposed on research dangerous
- Ethical constraints should have universally imperative character



Principal objections

- Unacceptable damage inflicted upon object of research
- In conflict with basic human values, including:
 - respect for human dignity
 - solidarity with mankind (equality)
 - solidarity with future generations (sustained development)



Internal problems: improper behaviour

- With respect to subjects of experimentation
- With respect to general public and media
- With respect to rules of 'good practice'
- Manipulation of data: fraud and deceit
- Infringement of intellectual property rights



Misconduct

- Not all violations equally serious
- Hard data rare and difficult to get hold of
- Not always easy to draw sharp lines
- Number of cases in scientific and public media is growing

- Examples
 - IOM: smaller lapses unnoted, but equally harmful



Causes misconduct

- Pressure powerful persons or institutions
- Economic and financial motives
- Own ambitions and vanity
- Prevention: development of proper sense of values and standards



Role Academies

- Case for growing concern
- Often no official protocol
- Academies: evaluation or advice
- Code of conduct desirable
- ALLEA should take some initiative



ESF

- National academies should draw up national codes of good scientific practice
- National academies should initiate discussions on procedures for investigating scientific misconduct



Associations of Academies

- Placing issue on agenda
- Information and advice to individual academies
- International coordination; alignment around common principles?
- Dealing with misconduct in international research



ALLEA

- Memorandum on scientific integrity
- National committee for scientific integrity: advisory board / science court of appeal
- Model to stimulate discussion and to coordinate a European approach