

Progress report:

First WCGF Grant Funds Innovative Research Ethics Curriculum at NYU

WCG Foundation's (WCGF's) first grant—a two-year \$200,000 award to New York University (NYU)—has already enabled NYU Langone Medical Center (NYULMC) to strengthen research ethics education within and beyond the medical center. During the first year, NYU funded curriculum development and supported faculty participation in lectures, webinars, panel discussions, and other outreach efforts.

As a result, 20 students at NYULMC completed a new course in research ethics and integrity, and 12 research professionals from resource-poor countries attended a two-week intensive ethics training program. In addition, thousands of students and faculty from the nation's top academic institutions and high schools gained a better understanding of today's research ethics issues via webinars, websites, and lectures by NYULMC faculty.

"The Foundation support enabled us to create courses that examine emerging research issues—in areas such as face transplantation, uterine transplants, compassionate use and expanded access—that we couldn't explore before," said Arthur Caplan, PhD, Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor and head of the Division of Bioethics at NYULMC. "That, in turn, is prompting us to consider whether to create a broader program in research integrity."

Highlights for year 1, which ran from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, are detailed below. Similar accomplishments are expected for year 2, which began July 1, 2016.

- Introduction of a novel three-credit course on research ethics and integrity, for graduate engineering students at the medical center.
- Ethics training for participants in the 2016 WIRB Fellowship Program for IRB members and directors from resource-poor countries.
- Mentoring of six graduate students/research scholars on research ethics topics.
- Rounds presentations on research ethics to over 400 doctors, residents, and medical students in cancer, medicine, orthopedics, pediatrics, and surgery.
- Faculty presentations at numerous workshops, lectures, panel discussions, seminars, and webinars, reaching students and medical and research professionals at organizations including: AstraZeneca, Baruch College, Boston University, Columbia University, Fordham University, Harvard University, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Johns Hopkins University, Methodist Hospital in Houston, NYU School of Medicine, Oxford University, UNICEF, University of Vermont, Weil Cornell Medical School, and Yale University.
- 16 presentations at institutions around the world on ethical considerations of compassionate use/expanded access to experimental treatments.