GRADUATE STUDENTS AND ETHICS at the University of Toronto

Presented by: Estina Boddie, M.Ed.
Faculty Graduate Coordinator
Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering
Prof. Desai originally developed this presentation for the Ethics Seminar.

Former Associate Director of Graduate Studies in the Faculty coordinated the slides.
Graduate Students and Ethics in Graduate Research

Know Your Rights

and

Understand Your Responsibilities
ETHICS in Graduate Research

Is involved in your relationships with:

• Your Professors and Supervisor(s)
• Fellow Students
• The University
• Scientists/Industry outside the University
• Granting/Funding agencies
• Society
Ethics in the Graduate Student/Professor Dynamic

- Collegial relationships desirable
- Power must not be misused.
- Students are paid to be students, to work on a specific research program.
Graduate Supervision Guidelines

• The School of Graduate Studies provides information that answers many questions about issues arising in graduate supervision

Q1. Who do you include as an author on a paper?

Q2. Can you switch to another research supervisor part-way through your graduate program?
Common Sources of Ethical Problems in Research

- Ownership of intellectual property
- Authorship of papers
- Use of another’s ideas without credit
- Misrepresentation of research results
- Unauthorized use of University facilities
Proceed with Caution:

You should not presume that everyone you deal with will behave ethically regarding:

- Ownership of intellectual property
- Confidentiality agreements
- Non-disclosure agreements
PROTECT Yourself by:

1. Frequent open discussions with your supervisor and colleagues.

2. Knowing the relevant University policies.
University of Toronto Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research

• Governing Council approved a Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research.

http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/ethicalr.htm
U of T Policies (cont’d)

• University Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research
  http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/ethicalr.htm

• University of Toronto Framework to Address Research Misconduct

• Code on Academic Behaviour
  http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm

• Code of Student Conduct
  http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm

• University Research Ethics - involving humans, animals or hazardous materials
  http://www.research.utoronto.ca/for-researchers-administrators/ethics/human/policy-related-to-ethics/
University of Toronto Intellectual Property Regulations and Guidelines

- University of Toronto Policy on Intellectual Property

- Intellectual Property Guidelines for Graduate Students and Supervisors
  [http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/governance/policies/intellectualprop.htm](http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/governance/policies/intellectualprop.htm)
The University has policies on related issues in place:

- U of T Publication Policy
- Inventions Policy
- Policy on Copyright and other Proprietary matters
- Policy on Computer Software

http://www.research.utoronto.ca/for-researchers-administrators/commercialization-knowledge-transfer/ip-the-basics/
Seeking Advice

The Advice/Information-Chain:

1. Your supervisor
2. Your Graduate Office staff
3. Your Department Chair
5. Vice-Dean, School of Graduate Studies
REMINDER

Ethical Conduct is Often—but Not Always—Common Sense

When in doubt use your resources
Additional Resources

- University of Toronto Office of Research Services Guide for Graduate Students

- NSERC Ethics Policies

- The Dr. Nancy Olivieri case

- The Schoen Affair at Lucent: 3 page executive summary of the Beasley Report - illustrates issues regarding responsibilities of authorship

- Case Western Reserve University: online Ethics Center for Engineering and Science offers an extensive collection of topics relevant to ethics
  http://www.onlineethics.org/
Useful Guidelines from the American Physical Society  
*Statement on Ethics*

- Statement on Policies for Handling Allegations of Research Misconduct  

- Guidelines for Professional Conduct  
  [http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02_2.cfm](http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02_2.cfm)

- Statement of Policy on Equal Professional Opportunity  

- Guidelines for Professional Conduct  
  [http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02_2.cfm](http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02_2.cfm)

- Statement on Displays in the Workplace of Graphic Material Depicting Demeaning Images of Women  
A Final Word:

- Know your rights
- Understand your responsibilities
- Use available resources when difficult situations arise