

2011

# [The First Annual Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Conference Report]

Sponsored by the Texas Tech University Ethics Center, the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center (TLTC), the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Graduate School

# The First Annual Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Conference

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## **Introduction**

**Date:** 3/28/2011

**Location:** The Helen DeVitt Jones Auditorium, Museum of Texas Tech University

**Speaker:** Dr. Frederick Grinnell

**Event Summary:** Join us for our first annual Responsible Conduct of Research Conference.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Frederick Grinnell. Grinnell possesses an insider's knowledge of biomedical research based on more than thirty-five years of experience.

Throughout much of that period, he has lectured on philosophical and ethical issues in science.

Dr. Grinnell will be speaking on Ethical Dilemmas in Research and Informed Consent and Risk.

Grinnell's books will be available for purchase at the conference. Attendees will receive 5 hours of RCR credit (for attending the entire conference.)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tltc.ttu.edu/WebApps/EMSEventEnrollmentDev/View/RSS/RSS.aspx/GetEvents> (accessed, 01/28/2011)

### **Morning Session**

**Title:** Ethical Dilemmas in Research

**Time:** 10:00 - 11:30 AM

**Session Summary:**

Textbooks and research papers present a linear account of scientific work and idealize the scientific method. In everyday practice, scientists bring their own interests and passions to their work. The interplay within the community between investigators' competing interests and passions contributes to the dynamic of discovery and credibility. Ambiguities and conflicts of interest inherent in practice provide an ongoing source of ethical dilemmas in research.

### **Afternoon Session**

**Title:** Informed Consent and Risk

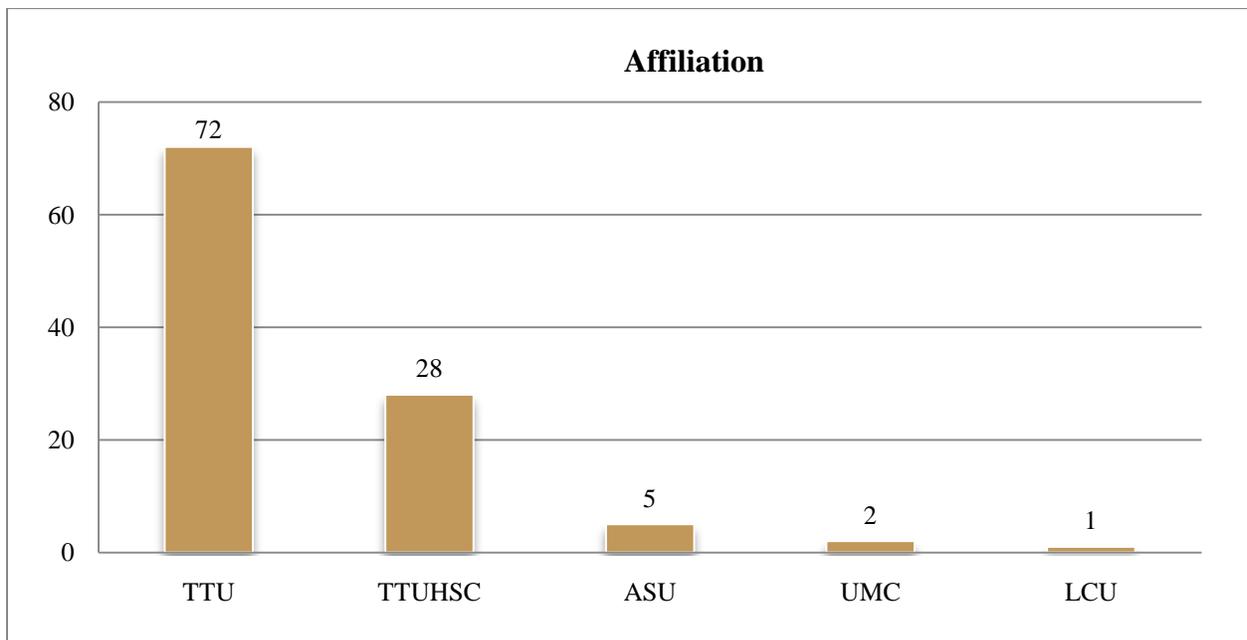
**Time:** 1:00 - 2:30 PM

**Session Summary:**

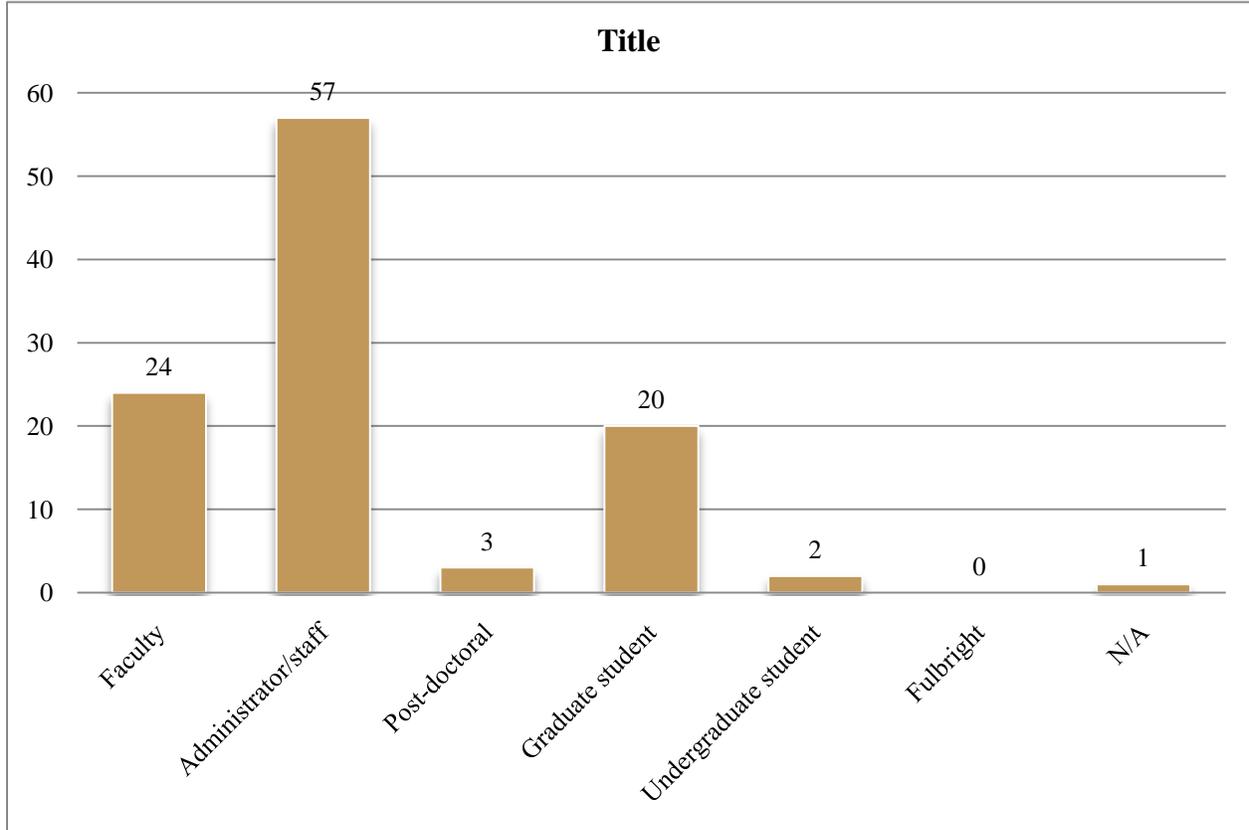
The problem of distinguishing therapy from research has been a longstanding challenge to the possibility of informed consent in human research. Genetic medicine, by changing the conventional meaning of words like disease, patient, and cure, compromises further an already troubled informed consent process. Application of the precautionary principle would suggest the need for new human research protections at the beginning and ending of human research projects.

## Participants

The 108 participants came from 5 different institutes. The majority attendees were affiliated with Texas Tech University (TTU), and 28 participants came from Texas Tech University Health Science Center (TTUHSC). There were also 5 professors from Angelo State University (ASU), 2 staff members from University Medical Center (UMC), and 1 professor from Lubbock Christian University (LCU).



Of the 108 participants, most were faculty, administrator, and staff members.



The following table breaks down the various participants from these 5 institutes.

	TTU	TTUHSC	ASU	UMC	LCU
<b>Faculty</b>	11	7	5	0	1
<b>Administrator/staff</b>	35	20	0	2	0
<b>Post-doctoral</b>	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Graduate student</b>	19	1	0	0	0
<b>Undergraduate student</b>	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Fulbright</b>	1	0	0	0	0
<b>N/A</b>	1	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

The 72 TTU-affiliated participants came from 35 different departments/offices.

	Faculty	Administrator/ staff	Post- doctoral	Graduate student	Undergraduate student	Fulbright	N/A	SUM
Biology	1			2	2			5
Chemistry	2		3					5
Library		5						5
Animal and Food Science		2		2				4
Arts & Science		1		2				3
Graduate School		3						3
Provost, Office of		3						3
OVPR		3						3
Animal Care Science		2						2
EDUC		2						2
Math & Statistics				2				2
Museum		2						2
Physics				2				2
OPA		2						2
Psychology	2							2
Theatre				1				1
TIEHH	1	1						2
TLTC		2						2
Audit Services, Office of		1						1
Business	1							1
CASNA		1						1
CMLL						1		1
English				1				1
Ethics Center		1						1
HDFS							1	1
Honors College		1						1
HR		1						1
Industrial Engineering				1				1
Mass Comm				1				1
Natural Resources Management				1				1
Ombuds		1						1
Philosophy	1							1
PPES		1						1
Som/ Psychology	1							1
WISE/Civil				1				1
N/A	2			3				5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>72</b>

## **Evaluation**

Both morning and afternoon sessions were well attended and received mainly positive feedback. The following parts summarize the responses in detail.

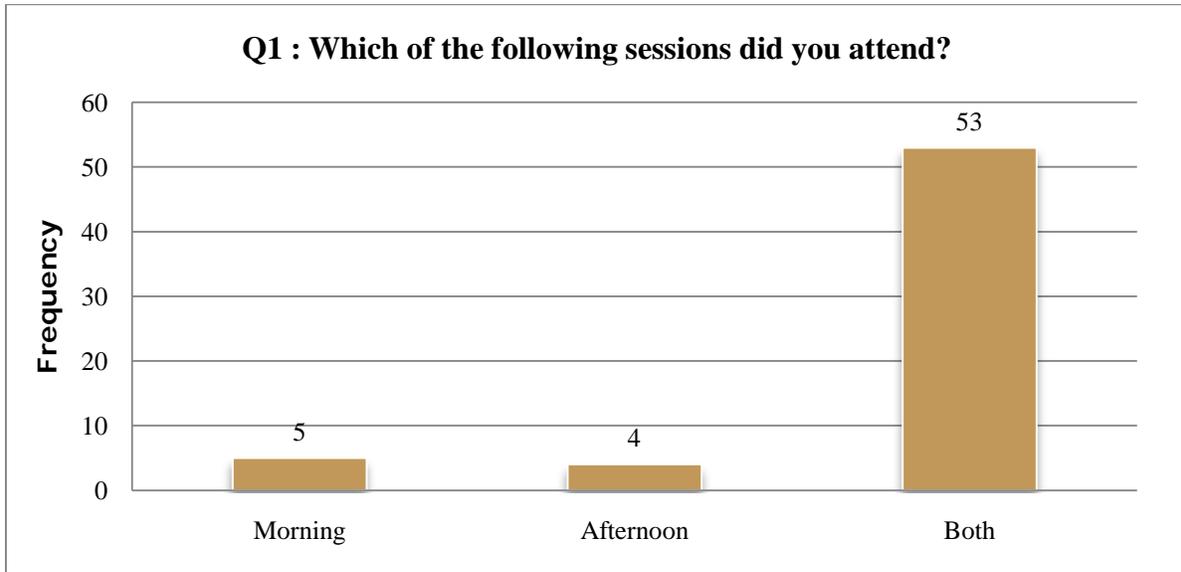
62 questionnaires were collected.

The following six questions were asked on the questionnaire:

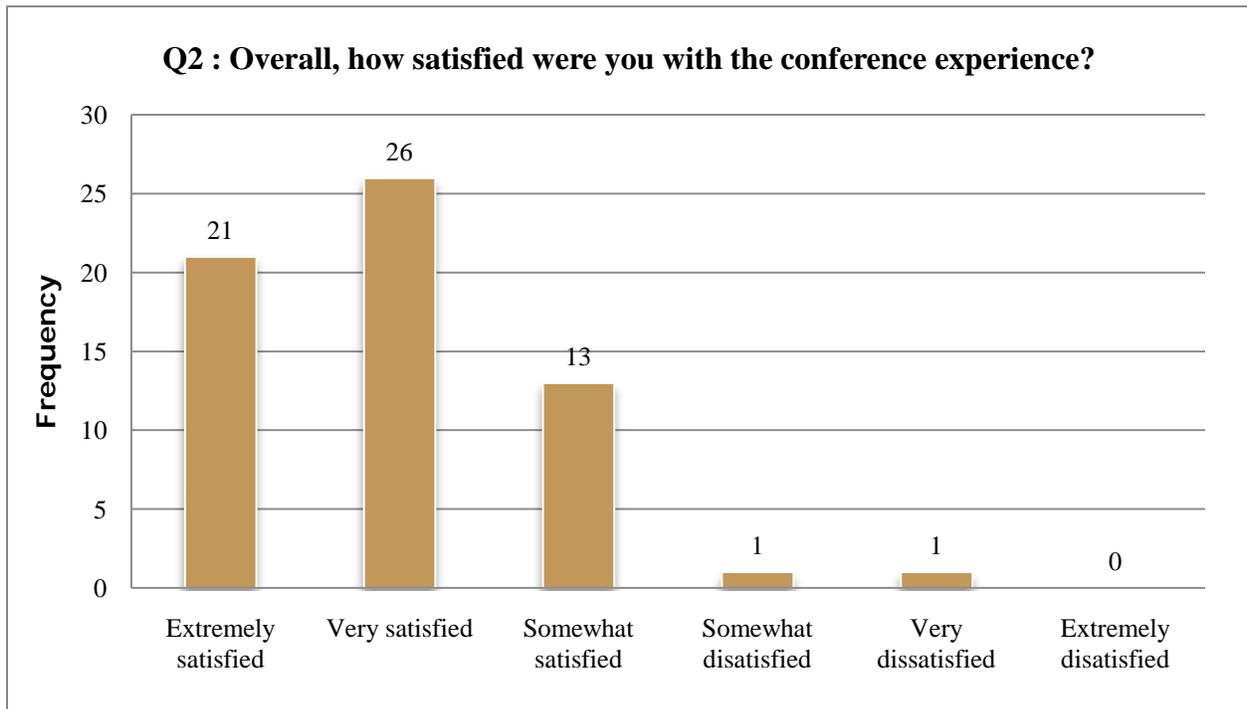
1. What of the following sessions did you attend?
2. Overall, how satisfied were you with the conference experience?
3. Overall, how satisfied were you with the speaker?
4. What did you like most about the conference?
5. In what ways could this conference be improved?
6. Would you recommend this conference to others?

The following charts summarize the responses to questions 1, 2, 3, and 6.

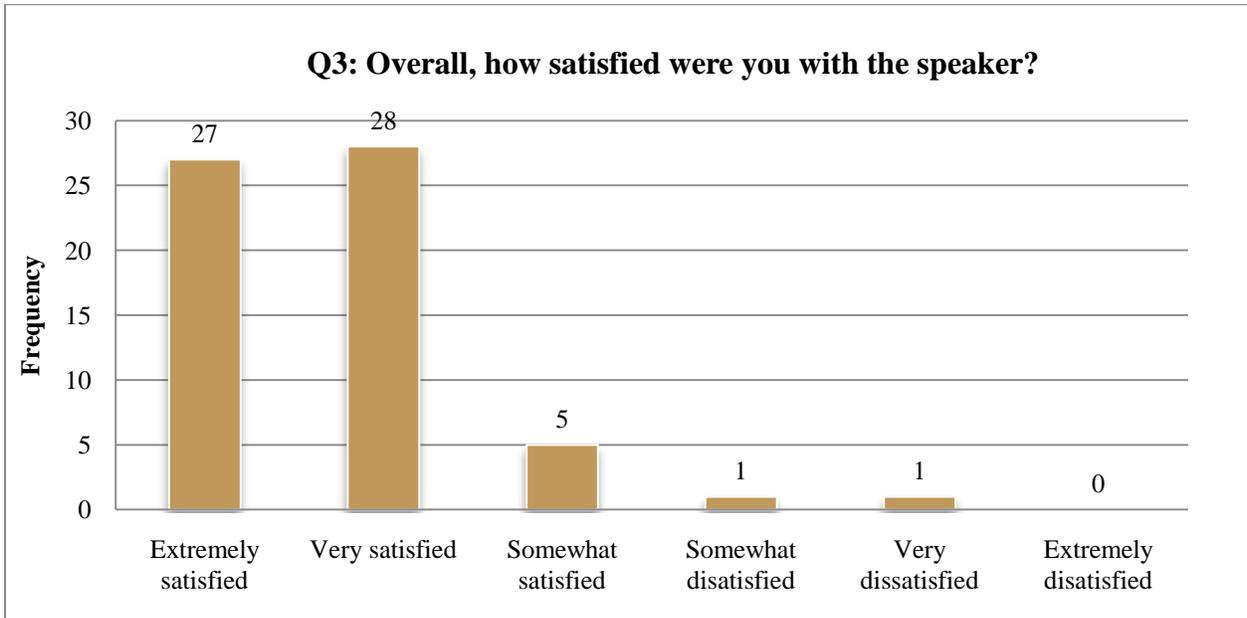
1. Answers to the first question show that most respondents attended both morning and afternoon sessions.



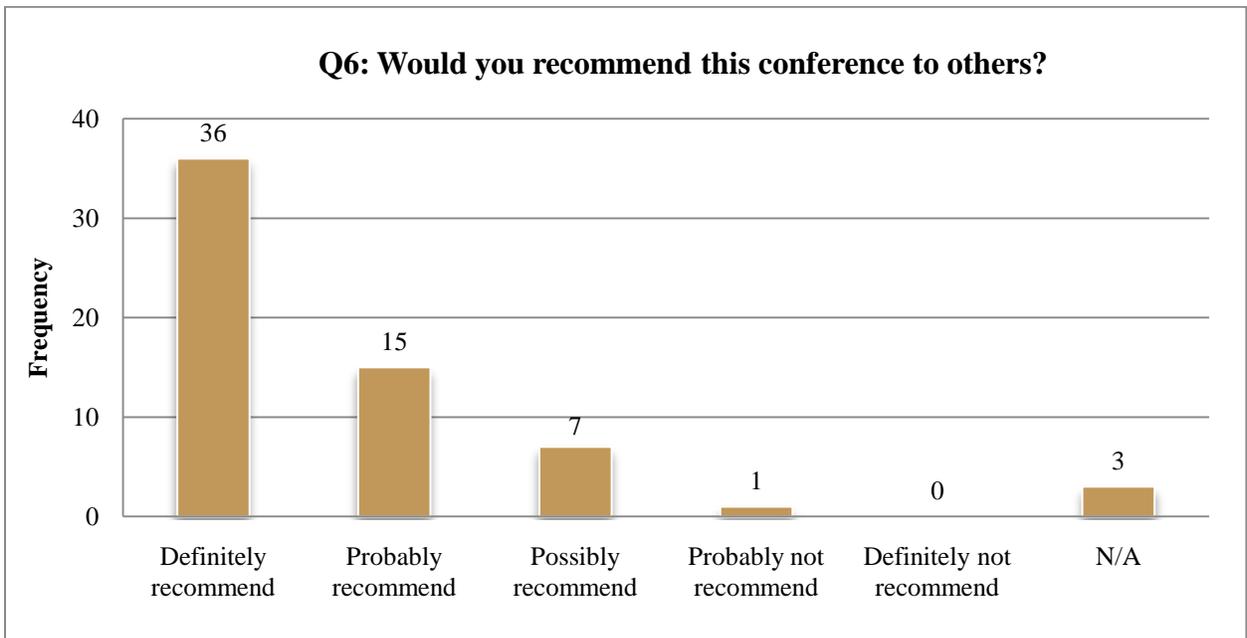
2. The majority of the respondents were extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the conference experience.



3. The majority of the respondents were extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the speaker.



4. The majority of the respondents would definitely recommend or probably recommend this conference to others.



5. In regarding to the question “what did you like most about the conference?” the responses could be classified into four categories:

- i) Interesting and relevant content/resources/information
- ii) Engaging and knowledgeable speaker
- iii) Excellent discussion
- iv) Misc (hospitality, location, time, etc.)

**i) Interesting and relevant content/resources/information**

- The topics discussed.
- Relevance to what I do every day.
- Gave me points to think about and to apply in my research work.
- Morning session.
- Lectures.
- Afternoon session.
- Good source for getting RCR conversations started.
- Morning discussion on ethical dilemmas - although I am not from a research background/office, I found ideas of value to take back.
- Great and different information. Thank you.
- The topic of speaker i.e. consent and risk.
- Good information for my job.
- Presentations were brief and concise, provided valuable information.
- The presentation was very good and effective. It has focused on ethical conducts in research. It is an effective presentation to keep people aware of the do's

- I like the "ethical dilemmas in research" part. Some comments about the conflicts of the difficulty of research with the funding time as what I can feel, I mean the pressure, which may result in the dilemmas in research.
- My favorite part in the talk is "Informed Consent and Risk" (the one in the afternoon). Especially the application parts and the examples.
- First session.
- Concrete examples.
- Well researched ethical issues that were brought to light regarding genetic testing/research. Speaker was very good. Very thought provoking ideas presented.
- Talk.
- Afternoon topic.
- Accessibility topic.
- Fascinating subject, informative sessions, relevant topic.
- Thoughtful reflection, with excellent application to realities of research ethics/clinical situations. Excellent treatment of informed consent in context of changing science of medicine.

**ii) Engaging and knowledgeable speaker**

- Well engaged and knowledgeable speaker.
- Speaker - looking at research "outside" the box.
- Speaker was interesting, knowledgeable.
- Speaker.
- Speaker was very informative and entertaining. Time - not too short, not too long.

- Dr. Grinnell was both informative and engaging.
- The speaker was very engaging and spoke about a very relevant topic - research vs therapy. As a future physician, I was able to see the research side and how it is not therapy.
- The speaker. I enjoyed listening to the various views he presented in a very practical, non-pontificating manner. The views of the same issue as seen from researcher in the field vs governing entities vs layman or subjects of the research were refreshing and thought provoking.

**iii) Excellent discussion**

- The open discussion in Q & A.
- Discussion time.
- Honest dialog about different issues.

**iv) Misc (hospitality, location, time, etc.)**

- Seeing a community of the interested/connected.
- Convenience of the time and location. And meals were provided.
- Content, organization, speaker.
- Convenient, concise, timely.
- The practical impact and venue!
- Was more interesting than I thought it would be.
- Fast pace.

- The food and great networking opportunity it presented. The formal, yet casual setting.
- Very interesting overall.
- Lunch.
- Lunch and menu of the TTU Museum were outstanding. It was a community-building experience in being able to visit with my colleagues across disciplines.
- A very good conference.

6. In regarding to the question “in what ways could this conference be improved?”

suggestions can be classified into five categories:

- i) Offer more sessions/speakers
- ii) Provide topics/focus in different disciplines
- iii) Encourage more interactions (name tag, discussion)
- iv) Expand/change the conference scope and time
- v) Misc (advertisement, accessories, wait staff, etc.)

**i) Offer more sessions/speakers**

- Have more than one speaker.
- More topics; more speakers
- Workshop component to discuss cases or ways of educating others.
- Having more speakers.

**ii) Provide topics/focus in different disciplines**

- Focus more on issues outside Bio.
- No improvement needed. Another topic for consideration would be conflicts of commitment/conflicts of interest. These topics will become more prevalent with more research, less resources, more students, etc.
- Address either RCR or IC, too much time on background. Not enough current research on topic, e.g. in RCR instruction efforts.
- A broader and more public issue should be discussed here to help researchers from different scientific fields.
- Not have so much medical detail.
- As a student from the Department of Math & Statistics, I did not feel that much of the material was applicable to me. Maybe conference in the future could be more research area specific.
- Maybe more general topic rather than very discipline specific topic!
- Let's have speakers that address the practical pedagogical and research/scholarship dimensions of ethics and responsible conduct. Grinnell presented his book and in ways that I found lacked clear organization and thesis. He raised some interesting ideas but did not pull them together coherently or show me the "so what" of his presentations.
- CEU for nurses and all research professionals.
- I would have liked a more expanded discussion of philosophy of science and research.

### **iii) Encourage more interactions (name tag, discussion)**

- Have break out sessions to get participants more involved; was pretty much lecture based.
- Case studies presented to an IRB with group interaction.
- Need more time for discussion - possibly case-based studies. Consider questions submitted by participants.
- Name tags would be nice
- Name tags would be good to help you be more personal in your conversation.
- More practical (hands-on) discussion.
- Use name tag.

### **iv) Expand/change the conference scope and time**

- If there is a handout (the plastic bag), make certain it is quiet - not plastic that crinkles; not plastic at all, come to think of it.
- Expanding it to HSC.
- Could easily be expanded to more than 2 sessions. Maybe smaller discussion panels. More interdisciplinary focus.
- It is already very good. Hopefully if the talk is 45 min (and we have 2) in each section.
- Host sessions late afternoon or even early evening might generate larger groups participating. 10 am-2 pm catches many faculty during prime teaching hours. This conference.

- As a graduate student who teaches and has therapy clients, arranging my schedule to attend this conference was difficult, and I am only able to attend the morning session due to scheduling conflicts. It might be helpful to offer the conference on a weekend.

**v) Misc (advertisement, accessories, wait staff, etc.)**

- Quieter sacks.
- The plastic bag rattled and were distracting - maybe another method or product.
- More focused presentation.
- Better advertised, perhaps?
- More attentive wait staff during the luncheon. I arrived slightly late and wasn't offered a main course or coffee.
- Promotional start times posted earlier.
- Advertise it better.
- More participants.
- It's OK.
- Offer a 12-ounce sirloin steak.