2-day course on Scientific Integrity for PhD candidates

Lately science has been compromised in more than one occasion by issues having to do with the integrity of researchers and research teams. Individuals and the culture in which science can grow and proliferate seem to have become vulnerable to mainly three breaches of integrity: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP). For young scientists in training the question thus arises: are my ideals of becoming a scientist still realistic? Ideals of being independent in criticism, audacious in reasoning, creative in observing and theorizing. Or do issues of sponsoring, pressure to show results, earning grants, nowadays have an one-sided impact on scientific conduct and thinking, depriving scientific endeavour of such ideals?

This course is designed to discuss the above mentioned matters with researchers in training for PhD. Goal is to develop integrity as a professional competency in relation with personality factors. The central concept of integrity, together with virtues like honesty, courage, reliability, prudence will be discussed in the context codes and rules of conduct. PhD candidates will learn to discuss matters of integrity critically by using those virtues and to determine their proportionality in daily practice. Actual problems will be brought in by the PhD candidates as ‘cases’ and actual matters from politics and media will be analyzed. Special attention is given to the relations between scientists, promotores, PI’s and postdocs.

End goal: To support scientists in training for a PhD in their development of the competencies necessary for a responsible innovative researcher in life sciences.

Course organizers: Dr Jos Kole & Prof. Teun Bousema

Teaching staff: Dr Jos Kole, Prof. Teun Bousema, Trix Driessen M.A. & Principal Investigators
Day 1:

Chair: Prof. Teun Bousema

8.30  Registration with coffee & tea

9.00  Introduction into scientific Integrity: conceptual framework and critical reflection

10.00 Break

10.15  “The Lab” – an interactive movie

11.45  Radboudumc – persons & procedures: confidential advisors & complaint procedure
   • Radboudumc Whistleblower-case
   • Advisors and procedure

12.30  Lunch

13.30  Introduction to afternoon session: Trix Driessen M.A.

13.35  Preparation to World café

14.45  Break

15.00  World café: two rounds
   • Round 1 (15:00-15:30)
   • Round 2 (15:30-16:00)

16.00  Plenary reflections & evaluation

16.30  End of Program
Day 2:

Chair: Dr Jos Kole

8.30 Registration with coffee & tea

9.00 Publication ethics: issues

10.15 Break

10.30 Case deliberations
   Participants discuss cases from their own experience

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Group assignment: system problems and solutions

14:45 Break

15:00 Group presentations

16:00 Conclusions & Evaluation

16:30 End of program