

## Responsible Conduct of Research

Research is an enterprise to acquire knowledge. Because there are stakes associated with the products of research such as grant funding, patent royalties, licensing income, revenue from products, employment, etc., a temptation to be dishonest is introduced into the equation.

Our discipline places a high premium on honest, ethical research. The university does as well and has established standards to meet and maintain. As part of this commitment, we all now complete training in ethical research standards, which can be accessed here:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~ospuvm/?Page=RCR/CitiCourseInstructions.htm>.

However, the most important component is the attitude of the group.

1. The chemistry is what is it, and we do our best to understand and convey what we observe. There are no compounds worth preparing, yields worth obtaining, catalysis worth performing, or observations worth making that are not genuine or accurate. I do not and will not put pressure on you to make things happen that you tell me do not. If you are putting in an honest effort and make a reasonable number of rational attempts, failure can be an appropriate outcome. No one's thesis, graduation, grade, or anything depends on success in making a reaction occur or preparing a compound.<sup>§</sup>
2. We are a group that others will see as providing reliable syntheses in the literature. You have probably already experienced reactions that are not reliable or experimentals that are missing important details. Therefore, what we report works when performed as reported. This requires that you keep an accurate, detailed notebook—we use notebooks and not memory to write experimentals. It also requires that we reproduce experiments and synthesis to verify the procedure and yield. That also means that we report complete and accurate data for compounds.
3. We give credit where credit is due. In papers or presentations, individuals who contribute to the work intellectually and/or physically are coauthors. Individuals who make smaller helpful contributions are acknowledged. The work of prior labmates that is not published or is part of a collaborative project is clearly delineated from your own contribution in reports, presentations, theses, or dissertations.

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<sup>§</sup> Of course, your outcome *does* depend on you completely and accurately characterizing compounds you successfully prepare or reactions you successfully perform.