

White House Summit of the Joint Committee on the Research Environment

Discussion Questions

OSTP established the Joint Committee on the Research Environment (JCORE) to ensure America's research enterprise is underpinned by the principles and values essential for maintaining global leadership in science and technology. The November 5 Summit gathers Federal government and nongovernment stakeholders to discuss JCORE focus areas. Specific emphasis will be given to the *integrative approach* JCORE is taking to develop policy recommendations and best practices aimed at improving the collective safety, integrity, productivity, and security of our nation's multi-sector research environment. The following questions will guide that discussion.

Transparency: Transparency and openness underpin the success of the U.S. research enterprise. Sharing of research data and methodology is critical to reproducibility and replicability. Transparency in the grant making process is necessary to ensure effective allocation of Federal funds and accountability to the American taxpayer. Openness around institutional processes for disclosure of harassment can lead to safer research environments.

- What actions can Federal agencies take to increase transparency in methodology and effective data sharing, and to otherwise foster reproducibility and replicability in research?
- How can the U.S. Government and research institutions best communicate research security risks and encourage appropriate mitigation measures?
- What processes have organizations found most effective to promote transparency in reporting harassment and disciplinary actions while preventing retaliation and respecting due process?

Integrity: The strength of the research enterprise depends on researchers adhering to foundational principles of ethical conduct, including integrity, honesty, transparency, openness, and mutual respect. The strength also rests on nations upholding principles of meritocracy and reciprocity. Failure to adhere to these principles imperils the research enterprise and the many benefits that flow from it.

- Who within the research enterprise should disclose financial and nonfinancial support and affiliations? What information should be disclosed, and to whom? What are appropriate consequences for nondisclosure?
- How can Federal agencies best support and foster research rigor? What resources would be most beneficial?
- What steps can be taken to encourage nations to adhere to reciprocal practices?

Workload: Administrative requirements for research include existing and potential data submission, collection, assessment, and reporting, including those intended to address security, harassment, and reproducibility concerns. These requirements must be balanced with their demonstrated value and an understanding of their impact on research.

- How can Federal agency coordination reduce administrative workload (e.g., with respect to financial conflict of interest disclosures)? What benefits and challenges result from harmonized Federal policies and guidance?
- What are the most burdensome requirements related to transparency, integrity, security, and harassment?
- How can agencies best reduce workload associated with submitting and reviewing applications for Federal research funding? What information is necessary to assess the merit of proposed research, and what information can be delayed until after the merit determination?

Coordination: Effective coordination across the research enterprise is essential to address critical challenges.

- How can Federal agencies best partner across the research enterprise to enhance research quality and security? What are the appropriate roles for government, institutions, and individuals?
- What practices will help research institutions protect the security and integrity of the research enterprise?
- What coordinated Federal policies would be most effective to address harassment, and what metrics can the Federal government use to assess progress?
- How can institutions and states coordinate to reduce or eliminate unnecessary administrative regulations that are duplicative of those required by the Federal government?