

## PARALLEL SESSION 10

SATURDAY 12 November 2016 11:10-12:40

# 10.A. Skills building seminar: 50 shades of grey in scientific integrity

Organised by: EUPHANxt and EUPHA Section Ethics in public health  
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Chairperson(s): Tjede Funk - EUPHANxt, Peter Schröder-Bäck - The Netherlands

### Background

Researchers are passionate about science, and doing it right. Science is what keeps us going – the curiosity for how the world is built and how things come to exist – and if we want to explore that, we have to do it in a good way. That means methodologically and ethically good. Fraudulent behaviour in science is unacceptable and most researchers would never dream of straying from the methodological and moral norms of science.

Researchers, however, are just like ordinary people: they are honest, but every now and then, there are small choices they need to make that could endanger their honesty. There are many temptations to deviate from the norms of good science. These digressions undermine the trustworthiness of science.

### Objectives

- Recognise ethical issues in daily research practice
- Discussing opportunities to deal with ethical issues in research
- Understanding and applying the principles of good research

### Format:

There will be a short introduction to the workshop (15 minutes) setting the stage for the average day decisions that make each and every researchers work morally challenging.

During the workshop we will watch/play Integrity Factor. This is a film focusing on a PhD student at the beginning of her doctoral research and using a choose-your-own-adventure structure. The audience decides how to respond to realistic scenarios where there is potential for misconduct.

In this workshop, after each scene, the participants will discuss the options and decide together what to do in these specific

cases. They will learn a lot about the decisions they make, in what context they are set and why small deviations are often harder to deal with than blatant misconduct.

It promises to be a Very Interactive Workshop (VIW) where participants decide on the outcomes.

See: [www.integrityfactor.nl](http://www.integrityfactor.nl)

### Key messages:

- Small temptations to deviate from the norms of good science can undermine the trustworthiness of science
- Scientific integrity is about the courage to openly discuss what 'good' research is about

### 'Do the right thing' in scientific research: short introduction

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Errors arising from human fallibility occur in science. Scientists do not have limitless working time or access to unlimited resources. Honest mistakes can happen. Negligence however, does not fall in that category. When we talk about negligence, we refer to a person being sloppy. Haste, carelessness, inattention – any number of faults can lead to work that does not meet the standards demanded in science. When a scientist is negligent, he or she is not following the methodological rules of science. Deliberate dishonesty (e.g., fraud, falsification, plagiarism) is about not following the moral rules of scientific behaviour. While both deliberate dishonesty and negligence are harmful to science, the consequences will be different. Negligence can often be repaired; fraud is unrepairable.