

Graduate Learning Community Session 1: Honesty and Accuracy— Essential Habits for Scientists?



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Learning outcomes

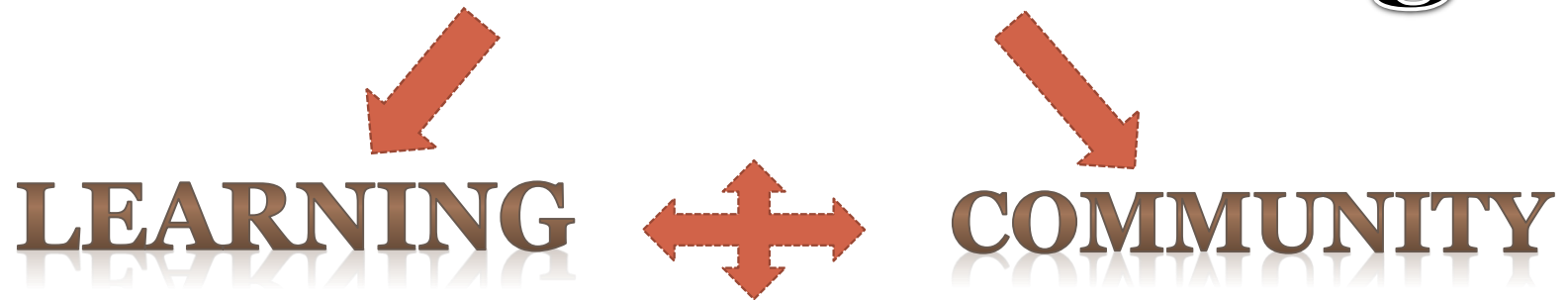


- Reflect on our shared professional ethics.
- Develop and plan to implement action items that advance our FSHN scientific community as a model of professional ethics.

FSHN Graduate Learning Community



Habits of Thinking



**FSHN faculty
and graduate students**

Honesty



When widely followed public figures feel free to say anything, without any fact-checking, we have a problem. It becomes impossible for a democracy to think intelligently about big issues—deficit reduction, health care, taxes, energy / climate—let alone act on them. Facts, opinions and fabrications just blend together.

What is honesty? Dishonesty?

What actions by our community promote honesty,
Discourage dishonesty?

Accuracy



- What is accuracy? Inaccuracy?
- What actions can our community take to promote accuracy and discourage inaccuracy?

Next steps



Peer review is a key feature of scientific publication, but it is susceptible to bias, inefficacy and other ethical transgressions. Alternative forms of review have produced only equivocal improvements in fairness and efficacy and have not been tested with respect to other problems. What are the next steps we should take to improve peer review?

First, researchers should receive more education on how to review scientific articles—a skill that is not typically emphasized during research training. Some scientists do show students and postdocs how to review papers, and some research institutions cover peer review in seminars and workshops on research ethics. These practices must become more widespread. In particular, investigators should teach their trainees how to evaluate articles for scientific merit and to follow ethical standards of peer review. Asking young scientists to help review papers is a good way to educate them, provided journal editors give their permission and the process remains confidential.

How? Characteristics of good reviews?

Action plan



- One thing you will do to support and develop honesty and/or accuracy in our scientific community
- Think/turn to your partner/share to group