Research ethics has been an area of excellence at UC San Diego for more than a decade. Michael Kalichman, founding director of the Research Ethics Program, is a Professor of Pathology at UC San Diego. Kalichman’s current research interests now focus largely on an evidence-based approach to research ethics education.

The Research Ethics Program (REP), founded in 1997, ensures that instruction in the responsible conduct of research is available for all UCSD trainees on NIH training grants. Additionally, reflecting UCSD’s commitment to providing ethics training for academics at all career stages, REP offers courses, seminar series, workshops, and individual seminars or lectures tailored to meet the needs of programs throughout the University. These learning opportunities, described below, are taught or organized by REP associates trained in philosophy (Mary Devereaux), anthropology (Dena Plemmons), and public policy (Fred Bonkovsky).

The goal of the REP is to ensure that researchers (1) are aware of rules and policies that might have an impact on their research; (2) understand their roles and responsibilities in ethical decision-making, asking questions, and raising concerns; and (3) are empowered to be proactive in addressing the ethical dimensions of their work and the work of their colleagues.

Among the courses REP offers are:

1. **Scientific Ethics** ([http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses/ethics](http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses/ethics))
   - Topics include, but are not limited to: research misconduct, data management, bias and conflicts of interest, animal subjects, human subjects, stem cell research, publication, peer review, collaboration, authorship, mentoring, social responsibility, asking questions, and whistleblowing. Designed around readings and brief lectures, the active-learning curriculum incorporates assignments conducted in and out of class. The course format includes seven two-hour sessions with class sections of ≤25 students.

2. **Internet-based course** ([http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses/integrity](http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses/integrity))
   - For those who prefer asynchronous, online learning, REP offers this discussion based course modeled on the Scientific Ethics course. One of few such courses offered in the US, this course was modified by Kalichman and Macrina (Virginia Commonwealth University) to create a template that is used by a number of institutions that together make up the Responsible Conduct of Research Education Consortium.

3. **Ethics and Survival Skills in Academia** ([http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses/survival](http://ethics.ucsd.edu/courses/survival))
   - This course builds on the Scientific Ethics course to introduce knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in academia: writing of papers and proposals, oral communication for educators and scientists, career advancement, and time management. The course is taught in 10 sessions of 3 hours each and class size is limited to 25 students.
Related UCSD programs:

1. **National Center of Leadership in Academic Medicine (http://nclam.ucsd.edu)**
   This School of Medicine program for junior faculty focuses on successful career paths in academic medicine and includes a segment on research ethics.

2. **Clinical Research Enhancement through Supplemental Training (http://crest.ucsd.edu)**
   A tow-year Master’s degree program, CREST includes a course on Patient Oriented Research that includes 8 instructional hours taught by REP’s Kalichman and Devereaux. Other School of Medicine faculty address data management, conflicts of interest, and human subjects.

3. **Ethics Seminar Series (http://ethics.ucsd.edu/seminars)**
   This UCSD monthly series focuses on clinical research and medical ethics and provides a forum for identifying and addressing the ethical dimensions of clinical practice. Seminar topics in the ten-year history of the series have included discussion of clinical trials with genetically modified cells in patients with Alzheimer’s disease, the development of a genetic test for bipolar disorder, and handling of incidental findings in imaging studies in liver transplant patients.

In addition to the programs described above, REP conducts one-day, train-the-trainer workshops to provide faculty with tools and resources to integrate research ethics issues into the fabric of their research and teaching activities. Workshops offered annually at UCSD include: (1) *Ethics in Context*, to help faculty informally infuse research ethics into their research groups; (2) *Ethics Across the Curriculum*, to help faculty introduce research ethics in formal courses; and (3) *Research Ethics Courses*, to help faculty create discipline-specific research ethics courses. A combination of formal and informal ethics training approaches will ensure that personnel involved in the proposed research receive ample exposure to the ethical issues intrinsic to [insert name of field or language relevant to proposal focus].