I. Ethical Conduct of Research and Scholarship

Standards are set very high for ethical conduct in research and scholarship. Publication of your results, if conducted ethically, can be a source of great joy and accomplishment - or, if not conducted ethically, it can be an everlasting embarrassment and disgrace. Once something has been published there isn't a "rewind" button! Nature and history are infinitely larger than humankind and the truth will always be found out. There are excellent reference materials available that examine ethical conduct in more detail. These include:

- "Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research," Nicholas H. Steneck, US HHS ORI publication

Violations of ethical conduct range from mild to severe. Some of the severe forms of unethical and unacceptable behavior include:

- plagiarizing works of others
- fabricating and/or grossly manipulating data
- misrepresenting methods/procedures
- lying
- non-compliance with federal, state, and/or local laws
- not seeking IRB approval when it is clearly needed
- harassment and discrimination

The university and professional societies have taken strong stands against unethical behavior in research and scholarship. Violations should be reported to OUR-UT, Office of Research, and/or the provost's office for appropriate action.

Researchers whose projects involve data acquisition and analysis have the dilemma of if, when, and how to discard what seems to be questionable data. There are excellent texts available that discuss statistics and/or how to handle data. These texts include: