

## **PRISM list of questions to facilitate interview**

### **Biographical information**

Career stage: years of experience

Please describe your current professional role and research team.

What made you interested in being part of this research project?

### **Exploring meaning of integrity and how it evolved**

- What does the word 'integrity' mean to you?
- How did sense of integrity develop in your personal life?
- Please share with me an example from your professional life where you felt that your integrity was threatened in some way. (Ask follow-up questions to explore further)
- How did you handle this situation?

### **Understanding research/scientific integrity in depth**

- According to you, what actions could cause scientific fraud?
- From your point of view, what is research integrity?
- Is it different from scientific integrity? (Is it simply the absence of misconduct?)
- What do you regard as the most important aspects of research integrity? If there are no responses, reframe with what constitutes 'research or scientific misconduct'.
- If not mentioned, ask whether they regard ghost/guest authorship, failure to declare CoI, plagiarism, etc as misconduct.  
Do you think failure to declare COI is an example of misconduct? Why?  
Do you think being a guest author is misconduct? Why?
- In certain circumstances, could a failure to raise concerns about serious misconduct itself be considered as misconduct or as a failure of research integrity? Please explain.
- What factors influence behaviour or actions that compromise research integrity?
  - Probe into personal factors and hence potential conflict between personal and professional/research integrity.
  - Discuss work environment related factors: career pressure, publish or perish, competition and so on.
- Tell me about a situation where you or a colleague was put under pressure in a way that could have compromised research integrity.
- What did you do in that situation?
- How would you respond to same situation now or in the future?
- What will be the difference in your way of handling the situation if it is a senior or junior person who is compromising research integrity?
- In what ways gender of researcher could be relevant while discussing research integrity?

### **Awareness of regulations, university structures to address issues related to RI**

- What guidelines, policies, legislations or regulations concerning integrity are available to you either at the institutional level or at national level?
- What kinds of processes are available at your institution if you observe activities of fellow researchers (juniors, peers, seniors) that could be compromising RI?
- How is the RI office organized at your institution? How has been your interaction with them? (for training, discussions or for raising concerns)
- In your view, is there sufficient support and protection for researchers to raise concerns about scientific misconduct at your institute/hospital/university/lab?

- What could be done to encourage researchers to raise concerns?
- What measures are needed to ensure that the power relationships or concerns about effects on career do not deter researchers from raising concerns about research misconduct?
- What could be done to facilitate and encourage researchers to follow values of scientific integrity?

### **Training in research integrity**

- Tell me about any training you might have received in research integrity.
- Do you think research integrity can be taught? Please explain your answer.
- What are the best methodological approaches to training researchers in integrity?
- What kinds of training opportunities are available at your institution/university?

### **Transparency and complete disclosure in clinical research (if time permits)**

- There is a move towards transparency at every stage of clinical research including registration and reporting of all trials and provision of raw data to other researchers. What do you think about this?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of this approach?
- In your opinion, what will this strategy contribute to ensuring research integrity?

### **Vignettes**

Finally, we'd like to share some fictional vignettes with you – please give your answers to the questions after each one.

*Vignette 1: a junior researcher has some concerns about a department head who is insisting that his name be included on all articles by members of his department, even if he has made no scientific contribution or helped write the paper. What should the student do?*

*Follow-up: Do you think there should be any sanction for such actions?*

*Vignette 2: the leader of a clinical research team in a university hospital learns that another team leader is receiving honoraria from a company. Several months later, the colleague publishes an original article in a leading journal. The results of the paper are favorable to the company's new cancer drug, without disclosing the honoraria. What, if anything, should be done about this?*

*Vignette 3: A PhD student joining a research project realizes that some of the results that a previous PhD student worked on have been manipulated in order to achieve positive results. The previous PhD student is now an assistant professor at another institution and was the star student of the new student's lab leader. What should the new student do?*

### **Close of interview:**

- Is there anything you would like to add related to the topic of research integrity that was not discussed during the interview?

Thank stakeholder for their contribution and time. Ask if they would like to review transcript of their interview. Inform them about qualitative data analysis that will be carried out on this interview data.