

# THE COMPASS

A BULLETIN BY THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS OFFICE

## SIRION

Singapore Institutional  
Research Integrity Offices  
Network

### Research Policy Boards for Robust and Quality Science

In a Nature commentary titled **“Overdue: a US advisory board for research integrity”**, the authors called for a national committee to build a culture of quality and integrity, and to provide a central resource for stakeholders (researchers, institutions, funding agencies) to build a robust research ecosystem. [[+Read more](#)]

In Singapore, such a national committee has been formed following the [Research Integrity Conference](#) in Oct 2018. Called **SIRION** (Singapore Institutional Research Integrity Offices Network), its members include all the 6 local autonomous universities, the 3 healthcare clusters, A\*STAR, and funding agencies as observers. The end goal is to cultivate a research culture that produces robust and quality science in Singapore.

### Workshop on Basics in Animal Behavioural Neurosciences

RIEO and LKCMed will be co-organising a workshop titled **“Basics in Animal Behavioural Neurosciences”** catered to animal researchers who are keen to learn more about good practices in animal behaviour experiments [[+Read more](#)].

To be held on **14 and 15 Mar 2019**, this 2-day workshop will feature trainers Dr Frederic Chua, Dr Hannes Hentze and Dr Zoe Bichler who will touch on topics such as experimental design, study performance, data analysis and ethical aspects of such studies. The seminar will be followed by a practical session for hands-on application.

Seats are filling up fast and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please click [here](#) to register for the workshop to secure your place!

For queries, please contact [rieo@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:rieo@ntu.edu.sg).



**BASICS IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOURAL NEUROSCIENCES**  
Theoretical and Practical Workshop

This workshop aims to guide researchers on general good practices to design, perform and analyse animal behaviour experiments. NTU researchers who are planning to carry out or are currently involved in animal behavioural studies are encouraged to attend.

**CONTENT**

- \* Ethic and Research Integrity essentials
- \* Theoretical session on experimental designs and parameters to consider when conducting behavioural studies
- \* Practical/hands-on - Open Field experiment as an example
- \* Theoretical and practical session on data collection and statistics
- \* Plenty of time for discussion and case study

**SPEAKERS**

**Frederic Chua, PhD, DVM, MSc, MRCVS, Veterinary Director, University of Melbourne**  
Having been a vet since 1987, Frederic Chua has accumulated a spectrum of on-site research experience in the military and government sectors, leading the Agvet's Animal Health Section of 4000 vettes, overseeing the nation of independent health inspectors in the sector. He has delivered 2000+ lectures, has awarded the prestigious national and international honours (from the UK) and served as a member of the Support Consultancy team on health matters under the RIEO. Frederic Chua is also a former Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

**Hannes Hentze, PhD, MSc, Independent Consultant at Strategic Consulting**  
Hannes Hentze is a psychologist with international work experience in academic research, small business companies, and in the pharmaceutical industry. He is currently active as an independent consultant, with a focus on experimental design, data analysis and statistical methods. He has published 100 peer-reviewed articles, reviews and book chapters. His areas of interest include: research design, data analysis, research ethics and research methodology.

**Zoe Bichler, PhD, Senior Assistant Director Animal Research Facilities**  
Zoe Bichler is a neurobiologist interested in psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders and associated experimental behavioural studies. After an extensive experience in genetic and mouse models in London, she joined the National Neuroscience Institute (NIN) in Singapore in 2013, setting up a new laboratory and behavioural core facility. She joined LKCMed in 2017 to build the behaviour and metabolic platform, train the advanced team and help researchers design best behavioural and metabolic experiments in addition to progressing opportunities for the services to the research community.

**REGISTRATION**  
Free for all NTU staff and students

**DATE & TIME**  
14 Mar 2019  
Seminars: 8:30am-1:00pm  
Hands-On: 2:00pm-6:00pm  
Lunch and tea break provided

15 Mar 2019  
Data analysis: 9:00am-12:30pm  
Lunch and tea break provided

**VENUE**  
Tutorial room at  
SCBE N1-3-B4M-02

**Practical session at**  
Research Support Building  
59A Nanyang Drive

**ORGANISED BY**  
Research Integrity and Ethics Office (RIEO)  
10 Nanyang Drive,  
#0-201/202, N401002  
Behaviour and Metabolism Department of  
Animal Research Facilities  
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine  
11 Mackay Road, S-200232

### NTU-IRB Members Refresher Course

On **28 Feb 2019**, RIEO conducted a refresher training workshop for NTU IRB members at the NTU Alumni House @ One-north.

Aimed at facilitating the committee's review functions, this **‘Back to Basics’** interactive session covered NTU's human ethics framework, risk categories and ethics review criteria in Social Behavioural and Educational Research and Human Biomedical Research. Members participated in lively discussions aimed at shaping best practices in the review process at NTU.

Such training workshops are held regularly to ensure that NTU's ethics standards are comparable to local and international standards and to standardise reviewing processes internally.



**Deadlines:** **NTU-IACUC:** Next due date for new AUP submissions is **1 Apr 2019**. [[+Read more](#)].  
**NTU-IRB:** New submissions are due on Mondays of every week. [[+Read more](#)].

**Email Us:** [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [RIEO](#) [NTU Research Integrity Officer](#)

**Web Links:** [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [Research Integrity](#) [ARFMS](#)