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The LORIER program at Inserm: a tool for fostering a culture of ethical and responsible research in the health research community

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Excellence and trust in health research are closely linked to the scientific integrity of the research community. In this context, national and institutional initiatives to promote scientific integrity are essential. In France, Inserm (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale) supports scientific integrity. The Delegation for Scientific Integrity (Inserm RIO) was created in 1999 and is a founding member of Enrio (2008) and the French RIO network Resint (2016). Since 2021, Inserm has launched a new program called Lorier, the French acronym for Organizing the Inserm for Fostering Ethical and Responsible Research. This initiative is a key component of the Strategic Plan 2025 signed with the Ministry, with the overall objective of fostering an ethical and responsible research culture. The scope of LORIER encompasses not only scientific integrity, but also ethical considerations, deontology, reproducibility, open science, research quality, and responsible research, including societal expectations, environmental concerns, and gender dynamics.

The Lorier program proposes to develop four lines of action: i) Integration of ethical and responsible behavior in all activities of the institution, including recruitment of researchers, evaluation of researchers and laboratories, communication, training, etc. ii) Creation and maintenance of a web portal (<https://lorier.inserm.fr/en/>) for the permanent availability of resources and services and for collaborative work. iii) Access to scalable training courses. iv) Animation of a community of scientific actors mobilized around networks of ambassadors and key partners to question research practices and generate knowledge on how to improve their effectiveness, relevance, reliability, equity and impact.

Since its creation, the web portal has encouraged everyone to share news and announcements on a weekly basis, regular webinars on ethical and reproducible research topics (<https://lorier.inserm.fr/webinaires/>). An anonymous survey on the wishes of all participants in international programs on "research of research" (e.g. OSIRIS and Share CTD - see <https://lorier.inserm.fr/en/asking-questions/meta-research-projects/>) has been launched, and the Open Science initiatives are promoted. Finally, Lorier promotes the ambassador network of people involved in ethical and responsible research "on the ground" (<https://lorier.inserm.fr/en/getting-involved/ambassador-networks/>).

Interestingly, the visibility provided by the Lorier program has generated fruitful interactions between the Inserm RIO and the various departments of the institution, including human resources and research evaluation departments, but also with universities that are interested in - or still involved in - similar initiatives.

In conclusion, the Lorier program is expected to play a pivotal national role in enhancing the perception of the quality and reliability of the research produced by the institution and its partners.