

Tuesday lunch and poster walk (Track B), Tuesday, Sep 23 2025, 13:00-14:00

Location: Seminar 1

Session: Posters

PO-08

Fostering a Culture of Research Integrity: The Role of the Scientific Integrity Counsellor at the Joint Research Centre

Tilemahos Efthimiadis

Joint Reserach Centre, European Commission, Netherlands

Maintaining scientific integrity is crucial for upholding the trustworthiness and credibility of research. This poster presents the function of a Scientific Integrity Counsellor, a confidential ombudsperson role established within the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) as part of the JRC Framework for Scientific Integrity and Research Ethics (SIRE). The Counsellor provides confidential consultations, advisory services, and mediation to staff members, ensuring anonymity and impartiality. By linking with institutional bodies such as the Research Ethics Board and Scientific Committee, the Counsellor plays a pivotal role in promoting a culture of excellence, transparency, and accountability.

The Scientific Integrity Counsellor is a unique role that serves as a trusted advisor and guide for staff members navigating complex issues related to research misconduct, data manipulation, conflicts of interest, and ethical dilemmas. As a part-time function carried out in parallel to regular duties, the Counsellor brings a deep understanding of the research environment and the challenges faced by reserachers. The Counsellor's work is closely tied to the JRC's commitment to excellence and transparency in research, and adherence to the highest standards of scientific integrity.

This poster aims to showcase the importance of the Scientific Integrity Counsellor role in fostering a culture of scientific integrity, and to facilitate networking and exchange of best practices among attendees. We invite researchers, integrity officers, and ethics experts to share their experiences and insights on promoting scientific integrity within their own institutions, and to discuss the challenges and opportunities of establishing similar roles. By sharing knowledge and expertise, we aim to foster a discussion that promotes scientific integrity, ethics, and responsible conduct in research, and to support the development of robust and effective systems for upholding the highest standards of scientific integrity.