



# RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCIENTISTS TO SOCIETY

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# AAAS SURVEY (2015)

- Responsibilities internal to science (professional ethics)
  - Proper data management, academic integrity, proper treatment of live subjects
- Responsibilities external to science
  - Mitigating risks (e.g. mapping flu genome)
  - Participating in public policy
  - Communicating science to the public

Responsibility	Percentage response
Take steps to minimize anticipated risks associated with their work	95.8%
Consider the risks of adverse consequences associated with their work	95.6%
Report suspected misconduct they observe by scientists or engineers	94.1%
Explain their work to the public	93.7%
Serve in advisory roles in the public arena in their area of expertise	92%
Publicly disclose risks associated with their work	90.4%
Consider the potential of each research or development project to contribute to societal well-being	88.8%
Participate in public policy deliberations in their area of expertise	88.8%
Engage in public service activities	82.6%
Take steps so that their research, findings or products are not used inappropriately by others	82.4%

# INTERNATIONAL SOURCES

- International Council for Science (ICSU)
  - Freedoms and responsibilities of scientists
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
  - Science as public trust
- Overall emphasis on the fact that the internal responsibilities of scientists to science itself are also responsibilities to society as a whole
- Public communication and public policy are *always* mentioned

SCREW "REAL LIFE APPLICATIONS"  
WANT KIDS TO LEARN SCIENCE?  
PUT THIS IN EVERY TEXTBOOK:

You can ignore this book if you want.

Go ahead. Coast through class.

But one thing in life is certain:

Someday, someone will clone a dinosaur.

And that someone will be an expert  
in a million things you think are boring right now.

And if you don't study, and work, and think

One day you'll watch that person saddle up,  
put on a cowboy hat, and ride a T. Rex

From a monitor.

Until your boss asks why you're wasting company time.



# THOUGHTS ON THIS COMIC?

- Responsibility to do good science responsibly
- Responsibility to do cutting-edge science? Who defines “cutting-edge?”
- Responsibility to represent science accurately
- Responsibility to inspire and encourage the next generation to study science
- Responsibility to “meet people where they are” with science communication – this is a comic, not a journal article
- Responsibility to respect your audience when you are explaining your work or the need for your work



# REFERENCES

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