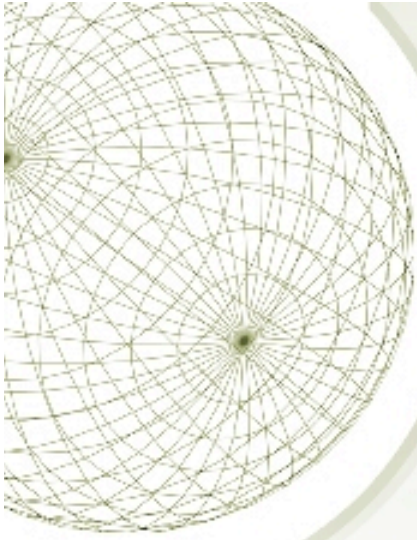


*Ethics at CMMAP  
or  
Because the NSF Said so*

*Connie Uliasz  
CMMAP Full Team Meeting  
February 21, 2007*

*We are talking of no small thing,  
but how we ought to live.  
Plato*



# *Definitions*

Ethics<sub>1</sub>: The academic study of ethics: competing theories of how right and wrong is determined, societal norms, subjectivism vs. objectivism, etc.

Ethics<sub>2</sub>: What we, as individuals, believe to be right and wrong. Often unexamined, contradictory and determined by upbringing and societal norms.



# *As an Applied Ethicist*

- ★ My answers don't include error bars
- ★ Recognize that courage is a fundamental necessity for morality
- ★ Question happenings at all levels
- ★ Sensitize personnel to the many issues
- ★ Methods
  - ◆ Logical progression of argument
  - ◆ Analogy, examples and counter examples
  - ◆ 2,000 year old western history



*The NSF said so,  
but why?*

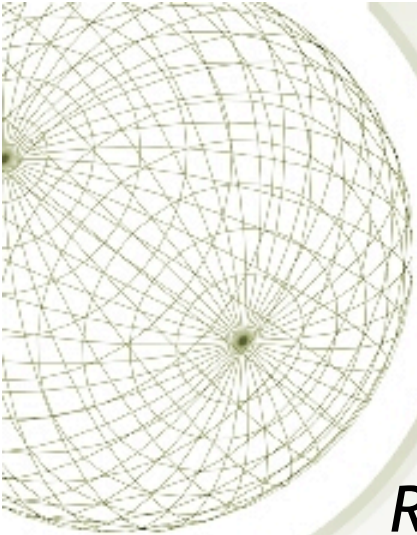
*We don't understand anything until  
we understand the why of it.  
Aristotle*

*Why isn't it enough  
just to do good science?*



## *The NSF said so, but why?*

- ★ Unfortunate past occurrences
- ★ To avoid embarrassment at a high profile centers like the STCs
- ★ ***Arete*** - People involved are more than just scientists and educators. We are human beings first and strive for excellence in all aspects

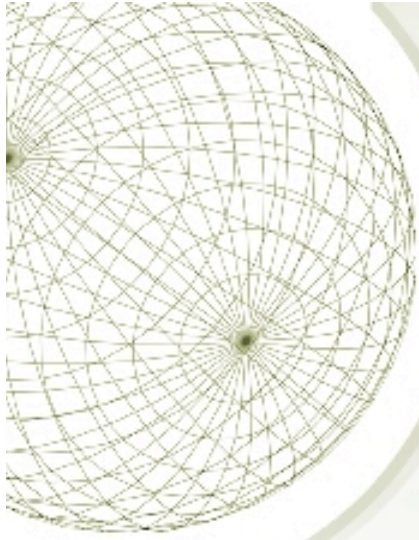


# Some Problems with Codes of Ethics

Respect: We treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. We do not use abusive or discriminatory language.

**Enron Code of Ethics,  
Pg. 4 of 64**

Deal with customers and suppliers openly, honestly and sincerely. When we say we will do something, we will do it; when we say we cannot or will not do something, then we won't do it.



# *Some Problems with Ethics Training*

*Southern Illinois University professors  
fail ethics test, sue State Inspector  
General.*

*The test takers finished the exam too  
quickly. Failed in their state  
mandated ethics training compliance.*

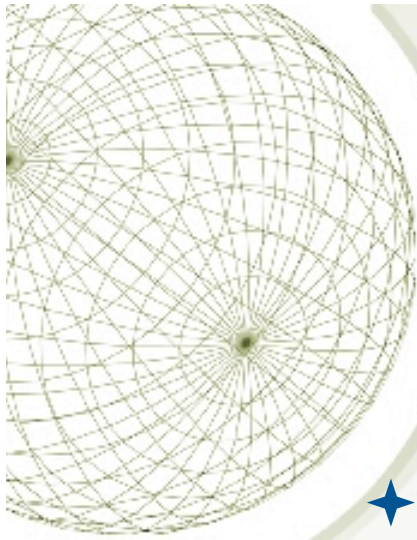
*Chicago Tribune, 2/9/07*



# *A Culture of Ethics*

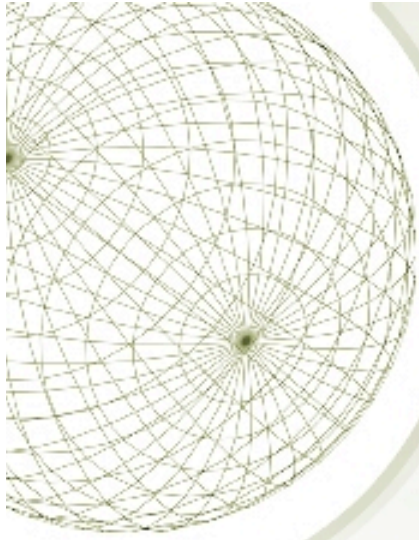
- ★ Ongoing, thoughtful examination of what it means to act in a consistent and ethical manner. This will continue to evolve.
- ★ The NSF requirement will entail documentation of compliance. This approach will satisfy both the letter and spirit of the law. How to document?
- ★ Training will need to be done in-house, by all CMMAP responsible parties in their respective institutions. Bottom-up approach.
- ★ CMMAP web pages will be in place, available, and continually updated.





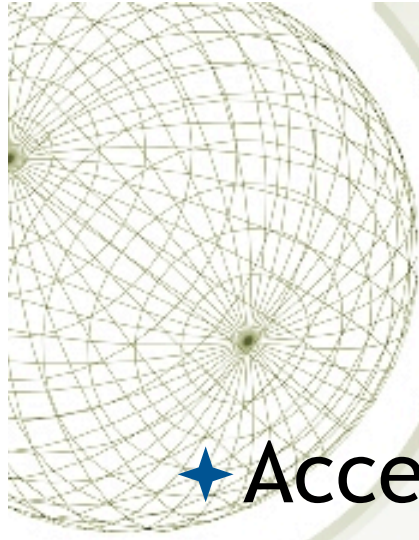
# *Ethics Specific to CMMAP*

- ★ Working Environment
  - ★ Fair and appropriate pay
  - ★ Respectful treatment for all
  - ★ Avoiding discrimination at all levels
  - ★ Rights of students
  - ★ Nurturing careers throughout the levels
  - ★ Appropriate authorship
  - ★ Sexual harassment
  - ★ Interactions between scientists and educators




# *Ethics Specific to CMMAP*

- ★ Fiscal Accountability
  - ★ Accurate and timely reporting
  - ★ Report writing
  - ★ Appropriate spending
  - ★ Budgeting fairly and reasonably



## *Ethics Specific to CMMAP*

- ★ Access to information and technologies
  - ★ Code sharing
  - ★ Timely access to data and metadata
  - ★ Providing what you say you'll provide and promising only what you can deliver
  - ★ Academic integrity; credit where credit is due, reporting results, data selection
  - ★ Timely publication of technological developments and research results



# *Working Through the Process*

## Data Sharing Example

What are the issues?

Who has it and who needs it?

Time frame

Special Circumstances

Formatting, accompanying metadata...

Who has to agree to this set of rules?

Repercussions for noncompliance

Codify the issues and answers, put on web

Feedback from CMMAP community

Publish on web, make into rule of conduct



# *Conclusions*

- ★ Long term, continuous process
- ★ Not limited to ethics; a continuum
- ★ Recognize that this must be a center- wide effort including everybody
- ★ Growth opportunity
- ★ Recognition that this group is unique
- ★ Success will not be apparent but will partially be in the form of problems that don't happen
- ★ Nothing new under the sun, but...