Scientists have long spoken about human nature’s “exploration dynamic” and its ties to genes responsible for learning, curiosity and restlessness. Given that humans are seekers, humanity has entrusted scientists with its trailblazing responsibilities. The journal Nature recently published the results of a world-wide survey concluding that investment in science is the key to humanity’s well-being and economic growth, and that scientists are seen as more trustworthy than other public figures. But are scientists in any meaningful way aware of their stature in the global public’s consciousness, or of their need to maintain the trust with which they are regarded?

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Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information, phone UM Ethics Programs at 305-243-5723 or E-mail ethics@miami.edu.