Civilization expects a lot from scientists, perhaps especially from those in the biological sciences. Some expectations are straightforward: Citizens in the mature democracies spend large amounts of tax money to support research. They expect to sponsor work that is free of fraud, misrepresentation and other kinds of intellectual dishonesty. But the expectations are less clear when it is realized that fraud can come in many forms, not all of them as clear-cut as falsifying data, say. What constitutes scientific misconduct? What about unclear cases? Can and ought scientists police themselves? In a broader context, what are the legitimate rights and responsibilities of researchers in the natural sciences?

Co-chairs of the first dialogue are Lawrence Fishman, M.D., UM Professor of Medicine and Associate Chief of Staff for Research, VAMC; and Kenneth Goodman, Ph.D., Director of the UM Forum for Medical Ethics and Philosophy.

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