**Module 2: The Importance of Disclosure**

# Introduction

Welcome to module 2: The Importance of Disclosure. We will follow Fatima Kiani, a talented early-career scientist who specializes in atmospheric chemistry, as she learns more about research security and the importance of disclosure.There are five sections in this module, which will describe: the importance of the U.S. research enterprise, the importance of full disclosure, and will introduce the type of information senior and key personnel must disclose as part of the federal award lifecycle. We will also discuss behaviors which could compromise future award access.

## Slide 1.1 Section 1 Overview

In this module, you will understand:

* What research security is,
* Why research security matters; and,
* Some of the relevant research security issues the U.S. faces today.

Let’s check-in with the star of our show, Fatima. [transition sequence…]

## Slide 1.2 What is Research Security

**[Fatima]** I am so excited to get to work on this big new project.

It’s such a great opportunity. But I’ve heard there are all these new disclosure requirements. Maybe I should call our sponsored projects administrator.

\*Fatima calls Emily, sponsored projects administrator\*

**[Fatima**] Hi, Emily, I am putting together a proposal and understand I have to fill out the new disclosure forms agencies are asking for. I need some help. Can you walk me through this?

**[Emily**] Sure thing, Fatima, thanks for calling. Research security can seem complicated, but I am here to help!

**[Fatima**] Research security? What is that?

**[Emily**] The importance of disclosure is driven by research security. Let's look at what research security is so you have a better understanding of the bigger picture and why this is all important.

### Slide 1.2 Slide Layer A “What is Research Security”

**[Fatima]** You know, I am not familiar with research security. What is it?

**[Emily**] Well, according to the NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance, **research security is defined as**:

***“Safeguarding the research enterprise against the misappropriation of research and development to the detriment of national or economic security, related violations of research integrity, and foreign government interference.****”*

### Slide 1.2 Slide Layer A “Why is Research Security Important”

**[Fatima]** Hmmm…that sounds important.

**[Emily**] Research security is important, and did you know that…:

* Research Security matters to researchers and research organizations because of how it mitigates risk by
	+ protecting research from theft, misuse
	+ unauthorized access, or misappropriation.
* Research security protects research at all stages of maturity from initial ideas, peer-reviewed journal papers, and fully developed intellectual property.
* And, if there is a breach of research security, researchers and their organizations could lose credit for ideas, credit for data, or opportunities for patents, licenses, and partnerships. Once a security breach has occurred at a lab or research organization, researchers and the organizations jeopardize access to future funding.

### Slide 1.3 Slide Layer A - “Example of Risks”

**[Narrator**] In many ways, inadequate research security can put our national security at risk. Here are examples of how that might happen in the research enterprise:

* Basic research can transition to dual-use research. This transition means even basic research can be used for military purposes or violate export control laws.
* Illicit knowledge transfer, for example, through malign foreign talent recruitment programs, cyber security breaches, or intellectual property theft, can erode the technology-based military advantage that stems from our basic and applied research.
* While we may conduct our research with benign intent, uses that violate our ethics standards are frequent byproducts of our most basic research. Examples include the development of biological weapons, surveillance technologies, or genetic cloning.

Research security protects our national security and researchers, and research organizations must understand the current threats to the American research enterprise!

**[Fatima]** - Oh, I think I understand why research security is so important. Our research enterprise is at risk and if we don’t get research security right, our ideas and work can be compromised and harmed. Is that right?

**[Emily**] Yes, Fatima, and it is a bigger problem than you might think. Research security goes beyond research and impacts the country as whole, especially our strengths and core values.

### Slide 1.3 Slide Layer B - “Research Enterprise Strengths”

**[Emily**] The overarching core values of the U.S. research enterprise–such as openness, transparency, reciprocity, and merit-based competition–are currently being exploited by malign actors who aim to turn those strengths into vulnerabilities.

This exploitation erodes our technological innovation pipeline and impacts our national security and long-term economic performance, creating a shared challenge. If you look at the big picture, research security is paramount for our society.

**[Fatima]** What are the research enterprise strengths in the United States?

**[Emily]** Yes, exactly! …and if you think about it our research strengths, such as openness and merit-based competition, are being taken advantage of and turned into vulnerabilities.

### Slide 1.3 Slide Layer C - “Core Values”

**[Fatima]** How about our Core Values?
**[Narrator]** How can our research strengths be exploited to create vulnerabilities? Well, here are a few examples:

* Our **culture of openness** can lead to significant exposure to risk at the hands of malign actors.
* Our **orientation toward collaboration** can enhance the capabilities of some who do not reciprocate nor share our research core values.
* While we routinely provide collaborators **access to world-class laboratories and equipment**, this access can bring greater exposure to risk.
* Our **focus on cutting-edge science** provides access to technology others seek to emulate or acquire illicitly.
* **Organizational autonomy and academic freedom**, which stem from a democratic form of government, make internal coordination to protect core values difficult.

Our strengths continue to make our research enterprise effective and robust. As we work toward addressing risk across organizations, we must ensure our solutions don’t detract from these strengths. The goal is to achieve proper balance, ensuring our research environment continues to be innovative and open far into the future.

## Slide 1.4 Closing Statements

**[Fatima]** Emily, I really appreciate you help me understand what research security is and why is it so important. I want to make sure that I get this right. Can I come over to your office to discuss what I need to know about disclosures, and what I need to know in order to be compliant with our rules and regulations?

**[Emily**] Sure, that would be great. Our sponsored research office is a great place to find the resources you need.

## Slide 2.1 Section 2 Overview - How Disclosure Builds Trust

**[Narrator**] Now that Fatima has a better understanding of Research Security, she plans to visit Emily at the Office of Sponsored Research to learn more about the disclosure process. As Fatima visits Emily, we will learn the importance of full disclosure and how disclosure can build trust.

In this section, learners will understand what disclosure is and be able to comprehend how disclosure is a means to report potential conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment. And finally, learners will understand the importance of full disclosure and its central role in a trust-based research culture.

Now let’s join Fatima as she makes her way to meet Emily in her office.

*Production Notes: Narrator Image present, bullet text to emphasize the learning objectives.*

## Slide 2.2 The Definition of Disclosure

**[Fatima]** Hi Emily, it's great to see you in person. I appreciate your taking the time to help me understand disclosure and its importance to research security. TG 49

**[Emily]** Of course. Our office has a lot of helpful resources regarding disclosure. We can go over them right now. NL 38

**[Fatima]** I guess I should start by simply asking, what is disclosure?

**[Emily]** Let’s start by defining disclosure in the context of the federal research enterprise. Formally, it means that researchers like yourself must provide certain information when applying for federal funding and periodically throughout the funding award lifecycle.

**[Fatima]** Based on the forms I’ve read, it looks like most of the information has to do with financial, personal, and professional relationships. Is that right? TG 50

**[Emily]** That’s a good summary. Some examples of information all senior and key personnel are asked to disclose are:

* Business ownership, a significant stake in a company, sources of funding or support, and outside employment.
* Collaborations, appointments, and affiliations.
* Current and pending sources of funding; and
* Travel in connection with academic and professional aims.

It is important to be candid and forthcoming in our disclosure, even if what’s asked doesn’t seem relevant to us; it is relevant to the funding agencies. It also helps uphold one of the critical shared values of the US research enterprise—transparency.

**[Fatima]** If you don’t mind me asking, how is the disclosed information used?

**[Emily]** I’m glad you asked. There are different ways disclosed information can be used:

 For example, disclosed information can be used to

* properly assess an individual’s qualifications and capacity to perform the proposed or ongoing research.
* prevent overlap with other obligations.
* avoid duplication of research
* and assess potential conflicts of interest and commitment.

## Slide 2.3 “Conflicts of Interest” vs. “Conflicts of Commitment”

**[Fatima]** You mentioned that one of the uses for disclosed information is to identify conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment. I’ve heard those two terms before, but to be honest I’ve noticed that people have used them interchangeably and it’s only left me more confused. TG -53

Emily: You aren’t alone! That’s why our office created these resources. NL 42

### Slide 2.3 Slide Layer - A “What is a Conflict of Interest”

**[Fatima]** What is a conflict of interest? TG 54

**[Emily]** Let’s start with the formal definition of Conflicts of Interest, also referred to as a COI.

From NSPM-33, A ‘conflict of interest refers to a situation in which an individual, or the individual’s spouse or dependent children, has a financial interest or financial relationship that could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, reporting, or funding of research;”

**[Fatima]** That reminds me of a story I heard when I was a postdoc about a researcher who studied a drug made by a pharmaceutical company in which they owned stock. It bothered me because the researcher had a financial stake in the company’s success, which may have caused bias in how they interpreted their research results.

**[Fatima]** Can you explain what a conflict of commitment is?

**Emily:** Sure. Of the two types of conflicts, conflict of commitment tends to be the most confusing. When I say “commitment,” what immediately comes to mind? NL 45

**[Fatima]** I think of my contract, which shows that I’m supposed to spend 70% of my time and effort on research, 20% on teaching, and 10% on service.

**[Emily]** Good! Now, let’s say you are offered the opportunity to do some private consulting, which could take up 10% more of your time and effort?

**[Fatima]** Sounds like fun! I’m sure I could find the time for the consulting. I already feel like I work two jobs, especially when I’m teaching and writing grants. TG 58

**[Emily]** I don’t think you are alone in feeling that way, but unfortunately, if you obligate more than 100% of your time and effort, you have a conflict of commitment. NL -3

**[Fatima]** Really? I often feel like I’m already working two jobs, especially when I’m teaching and writing grants.

**[Emily]** Indeed. However, somewhere in your contract and or funding awards, you committed to a certain amount of time and effort. This effort is usually represented as a % of time or months of effort. If a researcher makes commitments that exceed 100% or 12 months, whether at the same institution or with different employers, they have a conflict of commitment.

**[Fatima]** But I always find the time to meet my commitments.

**[Emily]:** A conflict of commitment occurs when you make time and effort commitments that exceed 100%. These commitments can be with the same employer or among different entities.

Other types of conflicting obligations, including obligations to share information improperly, or to withhold information from an employer or funding agency, can also threaten research security and integrity, and are an element of a broader concept of conflicts of commitment.

**[Fatima]** **I** see. So, I can better understand, do you have an example of conflict of commitment?

## Slide 2.4 Section Recap

**[Emily]** Disclosure is important to the award lifecycle. By disclosing information throughout the award lifecycle, it helps federal funding agencies assess risk and protects our researchers and their laboratories and organizations.

This action helps us build a culture of cooperation and transparency, allowing researchers to continue benefiting from the qualities that make the U.S. research enterprise strong.

**[Fatima]** Tell me more…

**[Emily]** Sure, I do want to warn you that a lack of transparency can drastically affect the integrity of the peer review process because questions of bias, confidentiality, and concerns over misconduct might exist around a researcher’s work.

With this in mind, current, accurate, and complete disclosure is essential for maintaining a fair and equitable process, ensuring funding goes toward eligible and qualified teams and individuals.

Full disclosure sets the foundation for the integrity of our shared research enterprise regardless of whether U.S. citizens, U.S. persons, or citizens of other countries conduct research. Fully transparent disclosure is also critical whether the research is carried out in the United States or through collaboration with international partners. Disclosures help us avoid potential conflicts of interest and commitment.

**[Fatima]** - It’s all making more sense now. Disclosing information is really important, because it helps assess potential conflicts of interest and determine if there are ways to manage those conflicts. It also gives me an opportunity to be able to show off everything I’ve been working on.

**[Emily]** Yes, Fatima. That’s absolutely right! (\*\*continue with text below\*\*)

Current, accurate and complete disclosure is central to creating a trust-based research culture founded on integrity and shared values, which are foundational to the U.S. research enterprise. Disclosure allows for fairness and equity and helps create a level playing field. Investing in organizations and researchers who operate with integrity helps maintain the United States’ prominence in science and technology research. When we think about the big picture, full disclosure strengthens both the U.S. research enterprise and our trust-based research culture.

## Slide 3.1 Section 3 Overview

**[Narrator]** Thanks to Emily, Fatima now has a greater understanding of the disclosure process. However, she still needs to learn which activities need to be disclosed for her upcoming research project.

In this section, we’ll focus on Understanding the Types of Activities Which Must Be Disclosed Throughout the Award Lifecycle and How to Disclose

We will understand types of activities which must be disclosed throughout the federal award lifecycle and how federal agencies have specific disclosure requirements.

We will also find out where to locate current information on disclosure requirements.

Now, let’s see if Emily has some resources Fatima can use as a guide on what types of activities she must disclose.

## Slide 3.2: Activities, Affiliations, and Support to be Disclosed

**[Fatima]** Emily, now that I better understand the importance of complete disclosure, can you walk me through what types of activities I need to disclose? I plan to share this with my team, so we’re prepared for the proposal process.

**[Emily]** Absolutely…it is important to fully understand what needs to be disclosed. Here are the Office of Sponsored Research, we have some additional resources our university provides to help us stay compliant with policies, regulations, and rules.

**[Fatima]** This is great, let’s take a look at these resources.

## Slide 3.3: Disclosure Examples & How to Disclose

**[Narrator]** Disclosure helps federal funding agencies assess an individual’s capacity and qualifications to undertake federally funded research. It also helps the research community avoid duplication and overcommitment, providing equal opportunity and a level playing field.

Federal disclosure requirements are captured through submission of common forms, which include the Common Form for Biographical Sketch, the Common Form for Current and Pending (Other) Support, and annual project reports.

The Common Form for Biographical Sketch assesses an individual, team, or organization’s qualifications for the proposed research activities. A biographical sketch requests identifying information on the researcher, and information on their professional preparation, appointments, positions, and products. The researcher must also certify the information provided is current, accurate and complete. Researchers should not submit personal information in a biographical sketch, such as hobbies, marital status, or contact information, as such information is irrelevant to the merits of a research proposal.

The Common Form for Current and Pending (Other) Support asks for identifying information on the researcher, and details regarding the researcher’s current and pending projects and proposals (including their sources of support), and information regarding any in-kind contributions, such as office or laboratory space, equipment, supplies, and employee or student resources. The individual must also certify the information provided is current, accurate and complete.

### Slide 3.3 Slide Layer C: Agency Disclosure Requirements

**[Narrator]** Alongside efforts to standardize disclosure across the U.S. research enterprise, each funding agency has the option to add additional disclosure requirements. Therefore, researchers must familiarize themselves with their specific funding agency’s disclosure guidelines. Individual awarding agencies are the final authority on disclosure requirements.

## Slide 3.4 - conclusion

**[Fatima]** Thanks for the information, these resources were really useful.

I’m thinking this is information I should share with my team to make sure everyone is on the same page.

**[Emily]** I think that’s a great idea. For future reference, researchers and administrators can reference the NSTC Research Security Subcommittee’s NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance for more information on definitive core disclosure requirements. The most current guidance can be found [here](https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/nstc_disclosure.jsp).

**[Fatima]** Thank you, Emily!

**[Emily]**: You’re Welcome!

## Section 4.1 - Section 4 Overview

**[Narrator]** The office of Sponsored Research has been a big help in supporting Fatima during the disclosure process. To ensure her team’s success, Fatima is preparing to brief her research team on the importance of disclosure, but she still needs a little bit more information.

In this section, Learners will gain a solid understanding of various types of problematic behaviors that can undermine research security.

Let’s meet up with Fatima as she is preparing for this brief.

## Section 4.2 - Behaviors that Negatively Impact Research Security

**Dr. Painter:** Hey Fatima, it’s nice to see you! How’s the research project going?

**[Fatima]** Hi Dr. Painter. It’s going well. I’ve been working closely with Emily in the sponsored research office who help me better understand disclosures. I’m actually preparing a brief for my team on some of the important points.

**[Dr. Painter]** That’s great. Did you see the materials our research security office just put out to the college? It is a great resource…you might want to review them. I think it would help the you and the team understand the behaviors.

**[Fatima]** Thanks, that’s a great idea!

**[Dr. Painer]** No problem, glad I can help. I have to run, but keep up the good work!

**[Fatima]** ***(to herself):*** Looks like the office of research security posted some resources on their website.

***Behaviors that Negatively Impact Research Security:***

**[Narrator]** The U.S. Government and federal research funding agencies have increasingly seen the need for researchers to disclose conflicts of interest and commitment.

* A **conflict of interest** exists when an individual, their spouse, or dependent child has a significant financial interest which has the potential to directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, reporting or funding of research.
* A **conflict of commitment** involves engaging in an activity that interferes with meeting one’s obligation under an award and employer agreement.
* **Problematic affiliations** are collaborations or activities with an individual or entity which pose a risk, are not in the best interest of an employer or sponsor, violate policy or law, or result in a conflict of interest or conflict of commitment.

The federal government also sees the lack of transparency due to conflicts of interest or commitment–whether done either knowingly or unknowingly–as a risk to both intellectual property and the United States’ competitive edge from a national security and economic standpoint.

Both individuals and research organizations must conduct their due diligence, ensuring disclosures are current, accurate, and complete. This helps dispel any real or perceived issues.

## Slide 4.3 Case Study

**[Narrator]** “The following case study is based on true events and demonstrates how lack of disclosure can lead to significant adverse consequences.

In 2020, an American-educated faculty member and researcher at a Texas university was arrested on conspiracy charges, making false statements, and wire fraud. The faculty member, a U.S. Citizen and Full Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering was engaged in federally funded research in partnership with NASA. He was a principal investigator, with his research team receiving nearly $750,000 in grant funds.

NASA grant proposal regulations require Principal Investigators to submit a Biographical Sketch and disclose Current and Pending Support information for any grant proposal. The researcher repeatedly and deliberately made false statements and submitted false and misleading information regarding his employment, affiliation, and intended collaboration with foreign universities and corporations, violating both the pre-award and performance requirements of the NASA Grant. On repeated occasions, the researcher falsely certified compliance with NASA.

The faculty researcher always owed his employer a duty of loyalty and candor. The university maintains a policy requiring employees to disclose conflicts of interest. The policy states members “have a responsibility to identify and manage, reduce, or eliminate conflicts of interest that may arise due to financial or other personal interests of an investigator,” requiring employees engaged in research to identify “all research or research activities in which the investigator is engaged at the time the Financial Disclosure Statement is submitted.” The university requires faculty and staff to submit a financial disclosure statement upon hire and subsequently on an annual basis, requiring employees to disclose conflicts concerning outside employment and significant financial interests.

This faculty member, hired in 2004, did not disclose his research or any financial conflicts of interest under the university’s policies and procedures. Following a federal investigation, the researcher was found to have collaborated with entities supporting foreign governments and was arrested by the Department of Justice. Among the associations the researcher deliberately concealed were his participation in a foreign talent program and his service as director of a foreign institute which posed a threat to national security. Shortly after his arrest, he was terminated from the university. He later pled guilty to violating NASA regulations and falsifying official certificates or writing, both violations of the U.S. Code. The researcher served jail time and was required to pay a $20,000 fine and over $86,000 in restitution to NASA.

**[Fatima]** These research security resources, andthat case study really helps me understand the importance of disclosing properly. There are some pretty serious consequences if we don’t get it right.

I need to make sure that I share this with my team.

## Section 5.1 - Section 5 Overview

**[Narrator]** Now that Fatima is fully aware of the importance of disclosure and it’s impact on her team, she is ready to brief her team on the consequences of disclosure.

In this section, we will discuss non-disclosure and its potential consequences for individuals, organizations, and the United states.

In this section, learners will understand **individual** consequences and organizational consequences for failure to report completely and accurately.

And finally, learners will understand the consequences of non-disclosure **for the United States Research Enterprise.**

Now Let’s join Fatima as she briefs her team.

**[Fatima]** Thanks everyone for coming to the team meeting. I am here with Sameer in the office, and I see everyone else is online or dialed in.

Before we dive into the research project updates, I wanted to share some important information about research security that we should all know as a team.

**[Sameer]** Interesting, I have been reading the information that the research security office published recently. I’m curious to learn more.

**[Fatima]** Research security and full disclosure is really important, so I’m glad you’re reading up on it. Let’s spend some time talking about the consequences of improper disclosure and how it can impact the research community, our organization, and individual researchers.

**I will** pull up the slides that the research security officer sent me on the consequences.

**[Fatima]** As a reminder, conflicts of interest and commitment can cause harm to us as individuals and at the institution level, and can even impact the country itself. As Sameer mentioned, the research security office published some resources that the team can reference, but let’s talk about what happens if we do not follow the rules.

It is important to remember federal funding comes with a stewardship responsibility which extends to the organization and the individual. Trust and transparency ensures fair competition for awards,best investment of public funds, and maximum public benefit from funded research.

As a team, it’s important that we remember that organizations rely on researchers to be forthcoming in their disclosures when certifying applications for awards. It is essential to recognize funding agencies make awards to organizations, and not individuals.

Sometimes researcher’s forget information, or may independently decide it is irrelevant, or sometimes even intentionally omit information. Regardless of the reason, failure to disclose is a violation.

That’s why for your awareness, I wanted to highlight that Funding agencies are actively searching for conflicts of interest and commitment and risks associated with unreported foreign affiliations. Many applicant organizations are also proactively working to verify information provided.

**[Fatima]** Now with that being said, are there any questions?

### Section 5.2 Slide Layer A “Consequences to the Individual”

**[Sameer]** I think I understand. If you don’t mind, could you explain how this impacts us as individuals?

**[Fatima]** Good question Sameer. Here are some slides that will help you understand that…

Individuals might fail to properly disclose information for a variety of reasons. Researchers might forget to include information which should be reported, or they might decide certain activities are irrelevant and choose not to disclose them. Regardless of the reason, each of these instances carry potential consequences.

Individual researchers are responsible for both their action and inaction throughout the federal award lifecycle. Those who fail to comply with agency regulations face significant potential consequences. Failure to provide current, accurate, and complete disclosure can result in additional conditions on ongoing research awards, which can disrupt the research and increase compliance costs.

This means award funding can be withheld or suspended while an agency applies additional conditions, mitigates the identified risk, or adjudicates the identified unreported information. If the agency determines the unreported information is adversely relevant to the award, they may even terminate or suspend funding indefinitely.

**[Sameer]** That sounds like it could impact us researchers greatly. I’m scared to ask but I need to know – is there a potential for even more severe consequences?

**[Fatima]** If a researcher intentionally fails to properly disclose, there are more severe consequences. Some consequences include:

Individual researchers can face civil monetary penalties for intentional omission under the Inspector General Act.

They can face suspension and debarment, which would prevent them from participating in contracts or awards with the federal government.

Additionally, Individual organizations might prohibit an individual’s involvement in other activities, including peer review, submission of applications, or joining other award submissions. Such consequences would severely impact a researcher’s career and professional reputation.

**[Sameer]** Wow! Research security is clearly important for us to understand and to get right. Not only could this impact me, but it can impact our team.

**[Fatima]** Yes, you are right, Sameer. But it’s even bigger than that. Not only would our team be impacted, but so could our institutions.

Let’s talk about what consequences organizations might face.

Let’s remember that a researcher’s organization certifies to the federal government that all information within an application is current, accurate and complete. The organization relies on the disclosures of the researcher, however, organizations themselves must also do their due diligence.

Federal funding agencies, corporate partnerships, and State funding expectations involve transparent and reciprocal partners who take research security and intellectual property protection seriously.

Along with significant reputational risk and loss of intellectual property, organizations risk additional conditions and administrative consequences if material undisclosed information is identified.

These risks can be costly to the organization due to a loss of valuable information, lost benefit of innovation investment, and expenses associated with investigation and additional oversight requirements.

If the non-disclosure is found to be material or substantial, the organization is at risk of termination, pause, or withholding of funding.

 Financial penalties, loss of eligibility for future funding, and legal consequences are all potential consequences for the organization.

**[Sameer]** You know…I’ve been reading more about research security, I’ve noticed that this is a big priority for the US research community.

Can you explain why? I’m confused as to why my day-to-day activities could have such a huge impact.

**[Fatima]** That’s a great question Sameer. The US research enterprise is a major stakeholder that is somewhat forgotten as we work to address conflicts of interest, conflicts of commitment, and malign influence.

The U.S. research enterprise is responsible for many of the most significant innovations in history, bringing economic value and benefit to humanity.

That’s why the continual loss of basic and applied knowledge at the hands of malign actors is a growing risk which can lead to increased burden. This loss reduces the efficiency of our processes and can bring increased oversight, reporting requirements, and greater limits on collaboration. Ultimately, this brings second-order effects, leading to the loss of research outcomes, and making it more challenging to recruit top talent. In the end, this works to erode U.S. innovation capacity.

When we look at the bigger picture, disclosure is essential for the furtherance of the U.S. research community. It has a central role in creating a trust-based research culture, creates a level playing field for all involved, and carries significant consequences for individual researchers, organizations, and the nation as a whole.

## Section 5.3 Section Recap

**[Sameer]** Wow! This was a lot of information, but I’ve learned so much. I am so glad you covered this material in the meeting, Fatima.

**[Fatima]** Sure thing, team. The disclosure process might seem like a lot at first, but really, it should streamline the process. Okay, now let’s talk about our research project.

**[Narrator]** Now that we have followed Fatima through her research security journey, let’s recap what we learned:

First, we’ve reviewed the importance of research security:

* Research Security protects researchers, research organizations, and our national security.
* Research Security protects the U.S. research enterprise.
* Complete and accurate disclosure helps support and maintain our core values.

We’ve also presented guidance for individuals and organizations to properly disclose:

* When in doubt, disclose.
* Consult with your organization’s research security or compliance office for questions on your specific circumstance.
* Disclose all required activities specified in the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support forms.
* Always pay attention to agency-specific requirements.

Always remember:

* Your professional and organizational reputation takes a lifetime to build, but can be destroyed in a moment by inaccurate disclosure.