



NSF SECURE Center

NSF SECURE Center Research Security Briefing

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The SECURE Center distributes research security briefings and timely alerts via its listserv. The Briefing provides a centralized resource for research security-related information, including new statutory and research funding agency requirements, new or updated federal and community resources, and significant news items and scholarly works. The Center will also assess and provide commentary, interpretation, or implementation considerations on new requirements, notices and resources, working with higher education associations, legal partners, or agencies as needed.

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SECURE Center News & Updates

SECURE Center Completing First Wave of Use-Feedback-Refine Sessions

The SECURE Center's first Use, Feedback, Refine (UFR) wave is wrapping up its fourth and final week, with 27 participants actively using and evaluating features in the [Shared Virtual Environment](#) (SVE). This phase emphasizes real-world engagement with the SVE's Resource Center and Community Forums to assess usability, value, and impact in authentic research security workflows. Early feedback is already guiding refinements that will enhance several features, ahead of broader release.

Preparations are now underway for Wave 2, which will begin the week of October 13 and engage 30 additional participants. These users will be among the first to explore and test resources designed specifically *by and for* research security professionals.

Research Security News & Reports

*Please note, articles linked below may require a subscription to view.
NSF SECURE Center cannot distribute copies of subscription-based articles.*

Georgia Tech Research Corporation to Pay \$875,000 to Resolve Civil Cyber-Fraud Litigation (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, 9/30/2025)

Georgia Tech Research Corporation (GTRC) has agreed to pay \$875,000 to settle allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by failing to meet required cybersecurity standards in certain Department of Defense (DoD) contracts. The U.S. government alleged that GTRC and its affiliate, Georgia Tech, did not properly secure sensitive systems, submitted a false cybersecurity assessment score, and lacked a required security plan for a lab conducting cyber-defense research. The case was brought by whistleblowers under the False Claims Act, who will receive \$201,250 from the settlement. The government emphasized the importance of cybersecurity compliance in protecting national security. There has been no determination of liability. ([more](#))

Fears grow over US scrutiny of Chinese university outposts (University World News, 09/29/2025)

An overview of the status of academic outposts in China, including some recent closures, and comments from currently involved institutions. The article also highlights the efforts by some US universities to maintain these intellectual collaborations, particularly for those with stand-alone branch campuses located in China. ([more](#))



International Research Security Policy & Resources

Research Security in the Indo-Pacific: Why it matters to Australia

Using internationally available data, Dr Brendan Walker-Munro of the Perth USAsia Center posits the need for Australia to develop a national strategy, build capacity among partners to manage potential threats, and position itself as a hub for regional research collaboration. The Perth USAsia Centre, an independent think-tank, is a non-partisan, not-for-profit institution, based at The University of Western Australia since 2013. Its publications include other research security analyses related to the Indo-Pacific region. ([more](#))

Research Security-Related Events & Conferences

COGR October 2025 Meeting:

[Registration](#) is now open for COGR's October 23-24, 2025 meeting in Washington D.C., at the Washington Marriott in Georgetown. Research security-related agenda topics include:

Thursday, October 23

3:45 – 4:45 pm: *Simplifying Research Regulations and Policies: Optimizing American Science – A NASEM Report*

Dr. Alex Helman, Senior Program Officer at the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), National Academies, Dr. Stacy Pritt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Texas University A&M, and Dr. Lisa Nichols, Executive Director, Research Security, Notre Dame University will discuss the new report.

4:45 – 5:45 pm: *Cybersecurity Implementation and Cybersecurity Updates from the University Perspective*

A panel of university representatives will provide updates on their institutions' efforts to implement level 2 Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) requirements, including practical challenges, lessons learned, and strategies for compliance. The discussion will also cover related cybersecurity issues and how institutions are adapting to the evolving federal requirements. Panelists include Allen DiPalma, Executive Director, Office of Research Security & Trade Compliance, University of Pittsburgh, Kelly Hochstetler, Associate Vice President for Research, University of Virginia, and Thomas Burns, Associate Vice Provost, Research Compliance, Johns Hopkins University. Kevin Wozniak, COGR's Research Security & Intellectual Property Director, will moderate.

Friday, October 24,

9:45 – 10:45 am: *Legislative Update & Outlook*

Joanne Carney, Chief Government Relations Officer at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Tobin Smith, Senior Vice President for Government Relations & Public Policy at the Association of American Universities will discuss with COGR President Matt Owens the latest legislative developments and outlook for the rest of this year for federal research policy and funding.



Among the issues to be discussed: FY26 appropriations for research, facilities and administrative costs reimbursement, research security, immigration issues, and more.

Save the Date for ASCE 2026:

Mark your calendars now for the 2026 Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program. Next year is the 10th anniversary of the largest research security conference in the world: February 24 - 26, 2026. through noon (CST) on August 31, 2025. Proposals are being accepted through noon (CST) on August 31, 2025 ([more](#))

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