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Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

CONSORTIUM SHARES INITIAL OUTCOMES OF CLIMATE SURVEY

[Michigan State University](#), [Pennsylvania State University](#), and the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), the consortium of universities collaborating on a shared PSI project, completed their analysis of data from a common climate assessment survey, a key component of their CGS Project for Scholarly Integrity. Dr. Carol Thrush (University of Arkansas for Medical Science) and Dr. Brian Martinson (HealthPartners Research, MN) provided the survey (based on Dr. Thrush's doctoral dissertation,) as well as consultation and advice on survey analysis. As reported in the [April 2009 PSI Newsletter](#), Drs. Thrush and Martinson are funded by the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) and the [Office of Research Integrity](#) to continue validation of the survey in biomedical research centers and expect to release the survey into the "creative commons" early in the Fall of 2010.

Along with Drs. Thrush and Martinson, a number of members of the consortium have worked on the project: at Michigan State, Karen Klomprens, Graduate Dean, and Terry May, Faculty Conflict of Interest Information Officer; at Penn State University, Eva Pell, former Graduate Dean, and Michelle Stickler, former Director of the Office of Research Protections, whose initial role was taken up by Suzanne Adair, Assistant Graduate Dean; and at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, James Wells, Director of the Office of Research Policy, and Eileen Callahan, Director of Graduate Student Professional Development.

The consortium administered the survey during April 2009 to all faculty, postdocs, graduate students, technicians, and at MSU, undergraduates involved in research across the three campuses (approximately 30,000 individuals). Approximately 50% of survey recipients responded across the three universities. Eight factors were identified from the analysis of responses to 60 questions: Program Integrity Norms, Program Integrity Socialization, Program Integrity Inhibitors, Program Advisor-

Advisee Relations, Program Integrity Expectations, the Global Climate of Integrity, Institutional Regulatory Quality, and Institutional Integrity Resources.

Initial data were analyzed in a “dashboard” of indicators that included: percent of respondents with a score of 4.5 on a scale of 1-5, average score, each program’s percentile rank, average percent of “no basis for judging” response, and a comparison to each university’s average response for each factor. These data were shared with collegiate deans and associate deans at MSU and at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and are now being shared with graduate programs at each of these institutions. A quartile ranking based on responses (at the 4.5 level) for each of the factors resulted in excellent discussions about strategies for strengthening the research environment within individual departments.

The universities in the consortium will share more details about the survey and their use of the results on their campuses at the special session on the Project for Scholarly Integrity at the [CGS Summer Workshop](#), and also at the PSI Capstone Conference. All of the other PSI Awardees have also administered the survey, and aggregate analysis of the survey results will be included in the CGS monograph on the PSI.

National News in Research Ethics

NSF SOLICITS PROPOSALS FOR ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER ON RESEARCH ETHICS

The [National Science Foundation](#) has issued a [request for proposals](#) for an Online Resource Center devoted to Ethics in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering. The program proposes to fund one award of up to \$5,000,000 for a multidisciplinary team of researchers who will “gather existing information, generate new knowledge, and create interactive tools that will help scientists and engineers incorporate ethical issues and reasoning into their pedagogy and research.”

NSF has outlined the following potential audiences for the resource, although proposals may include other groups of stakeholders:

- Instructors who want to incorporate an ethics module into classes
- Administrators and/or instructors who seek to access scholarly evaluations of ethics curricula
- Undergraduate and graduate students who seek to understand ethical issues in science, mathematics, and engineering
- Practicing scientists and engineers who seek to explore ethical issues and reasoning as they arise in research
- Researchers who create original scholarship on ethics in science, mathematics, or engineering

Full proposals are due on June 3, 2010.

NIH ISSUES RFP FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ETHICS EDUCATION

The [National Institutes of Health](#) have issued a [request for proposals](#) for an International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Award. The program is designed

to address the need for formal education in research ethics training for scientists and health professionals conducting clinical or public health research, with an emphasis on the principles of research ethics, international codes and legal aspects of ethical research, informed consent, elements of study design that affect the ethical conduct of research, and the ethical framework for provision of care and risk/benefit analysis for study participants.

NIH invites proposals with one of the following aims:

- To develop a comprehensive research ethics training program including Master's level curricula and practicum opportunities in international ethics related to performing research involving human subjects in resource-poor settings
- To revise and renew existing Master's-level comprehensive research ethics training programs
- Alternatively, for developing country applicants only, to submit proposals to support program planning activities in preparation to apply for comprehensive Master's-level program support

The ultimate goal of the initiative is to increase the number of developing country scientists, health professionals, and other relevant academics with a strong understanding of the ethical issues surrounding clinical health and public health research in an international context. For the first of the three rounds of the proposal cycle, letters of intent are due on May 21, 2010 and full proposals are due on June 21, 2010.

If you would like to suggest an event, activity, or news item for inclusion in the PSI Newsletter, please contact Julia Kent at the address below. For more information about the Project for Scholarly Integrity, please contact:

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