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## **Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity**

### **PSI BLOG HIGHLIGHTS INTEGRATION OF RCR INTO GRADUATE CURRICULA**

The awardees and affiliates of the [Project for Scholarly Integrity](#) have developed a broad range of activities and resources for RCR education on their campuses. One of the key features of the framework guiding the project, and an area of focused work at PSI institutions, is developing new ways to embed scholarly integrity and RCR into graduate curricula. The [University of West Florida](#) (UWF) has shared its approach to challenges and opportunities in this area in a recent post on the [PSI blog](#). Richard Podemski, Dean of the Graduate School at UWF, and Carla Thompson, Associate Professor, authored the contribution, which describes the step-by-step process used at UWF for including RCR training within existing master's degree curricula. The post gives particular attention to UWF's efforts to engage faculty in the process and to share resources among different offices and departments on campus. Dr. Podemski and Dr. Thompson invite other members of the graduate community to join the blog discussion by sharing their experiences in this area and addressing questions about the relative advantages and limitations of an integrated approach. Please join the blog by responding to one or all of their discussion questions as it relates to your own university context:

- Does your university have other suggestions for infusing RCR into the existing curriculum?
- Do you use other approaches for promoting RCR within the curriculum, and do they vary by degree type or field? What have been their lessons and outcomes?
- What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of embedding RCR training within existing courses, versus introducing RCR as a separate learning experience?

If you would like to contribute a comment to the discussion, or have your own idea for a blog discussion, please register [here](#) to create your post, or contact Julia Kent at [jkent@cgs.nche.edu](mailto:jkent@cgs.nche.edu).

## National News in Research Ethics

### ORI RELEASES INTERACTIVE MOVIE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY

The [Office of Research Integrity](#) recently released [The Lab: Avoiding Research Misconduct](#), an interactive movie that provides viewers with opportunities to simulate decision-making about the responsible conduct of research through the perspectives of the movie's characters. The video can be downloaded at no charge from the ORI website, along with a Facilitator's Guide that outlines the potential uses of the video in pedagogical settings.

Participants in *The Lab* are invited to play the role of one of four characters—a graduate student, a postdoctoral researcher, a principal investigator, and a research administrator—each of which encounters a variety of choices that lead to a set of consequences. The Facilitator's Guide presents ethical concepts and questions that can be used to stimulate thinking and discussion throughout the user's experience. The video also provides a context in which participants can explore core areas of RCR, including research misconduct, training and mentorship, data management, and responsible authorship, along with questionable research practices.

ORI has also introduced the movie as a topic for its [blog](#), where it is seeking comments from users on their experiences using the video.

### DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCES NEW SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY

In December 2010, John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, issued a [Memorandum](#) providing the Heads of Departments and Agencies with guidance for implementing the Administration's policies on Scientific Integrity. Ken Salazar, Secretary of the US Department of the Interior (DOI), announced his Department's response to the memorandum on February 1, 2011, with a new [policy](#) on scientific integrity. The Department also announced the appointment of its first Scientific Integrity Officer, Dr. Ralph Morgenweck, previously Senior Science Officer of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The new policy calls for "clear and unambiguous codes of conduct for scientific and scholarly activities" and for transparent communications within DOI about policies and practices related to scholarly integrity. It also seeks to promote clear communication with the public about "scholarly findings used in decision making" at DOI.

## Meetings and Events

### AAAS HOLDS WORKSHOP ON RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH PRACTICES

In conjunction with its Annual Meeting, the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) (AAAS) featured a [Workshop on Responsible Research Practices in a Changing Environment](#). The day-long workshop was held February 17, 2011 and was organized by AAAS's program on Scientific Freedom, Responsibility, & Law with support from the National Science Foundation's Office of the Inspector General and ORI. The workshop featured representatives from national funding agencies (NSF and NIH), policy makers, and the Office of Research Integrity, and was attended by a broad range of attendees from the scientific research community, including PIs and graduate students. Several sessions gave

focused attention to the roles of institutions in promoting the responsible conduct of research on their campuses and the training of graduate students. In a morning session that addressed different ways to support a strong institutional research culture, Peggy Fischer, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations at NSF, discussed the OIG's perspective on institutional plans to provide education and training to students and postdoctoral researchers as well as issues and limitations that her office has encountered with some university plans. An afternoon session, "The World is Flat and Science is No Outlier," explored the particular ethical challenges that graduate students and faculty face in a diverse and global research environment. Dr. John Galland, Director of the Division of Education and Integrity at ORI, facilitated an improvisational role-playing scenario in which a graduate research assistant and a research supervisor attempted to resolve a case of potential research misconduct. The skit led to an audience discussion of data manipulation, responsible mentoring practices, and the responsibilities of individuals and institutions in handling and preventing similar cases of misconduct.

Other session topics included The Complexities of Public Outreach, Finite Resources and Increasing Accountability, and Maintaining Integrity in the Policy Arena.

#### **PRESIDENTIAL BIOETHICS COMMISSION MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC**

The [Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues](#), which advises the President on emerging issues in bioethics, is holding a [meeting](#) in Washington, DC from February 28 to March 1, 2011. The meeting serves the central goal of the Commission, which is "identifying and promoting policies and practices that ensure scientific research, health care delivery, and technological innovation are conducted in an ethically responsible manner." The Commission's website provides a [live broadcast](#) that began at 9 a.m. on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting agenda begins with a session on Bioethics Research featuring Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health. Subsequent sessions address "The State of the Science" in Neuroscience and Neuroimaging; the Ethics of Emerging Diagnostic and Predictive Tools; Current Issues in Genetics and Neuroscience and Neuroimaging; the Global Landscape of Medical Research; and Social Justice and Ethics Issues.

**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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