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MSU HOLDS 2011-2012 WORKSHOP SERIES ON RCR

PSI Awardee Michigan State University (MSU) reports a strong turnout for the graduate school's 2011-2012 Workshop Series on the Responsible Conduct of Research, which has a current enrollment of 300 graduate students and postdocs. While MSU makes clear that departments and programs have chief responsibility for preparing their students to understand and apply responsible research practices, the series is designed to support these efforts through theme-based workshops on specific themes. The 90-minute workshops address topics such as "Being an Early Career Scholar," "Scientific Communications, Rights to Data, and Authorship," and "Conflict of Interest, Peer Review and Collaboration/Teamwork." Upon successful completion of seven workshops, students and postdocs receive a Certificate of Attendance, a requirement in some of MSU's graduate programs. To learn more about the syllabus and learning outcomes for the workshops, visit the website of MSU's graduate school at <http://grad.msu.edu/rcr/docs/syllabus.pdf>

PSI BLOG ON TEACHING ETHICS IN THE GRADUATE CLASSROOM

What is the place of ethics education in graduate programs? Is it the job of departments and programs to provide graduate students with the skills and knowledge they need to conduct research responsibly and ethically, or should this work be assumed by, or shared with, centrally provided ethics programs? These questions are taken up in a thought-provoking new [blog entry](#) on the PSI website, "The Visiting Ethicist in the Classroom: Complement or Cop-Out?" authored by Kenneth Pimple, Director of Teaching Research Ethics Programs at Indiana University's Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions. Dr. Pimple shares his experiences as a teacher of ethics who has worked with graduate students and faculty,

reflecting on the ways in which centrally-delivered ethics training complement research training by faculty in the disciplines. The blog invites deans, researchers in ethics education, ethics instructors, and faculty to “share their ideas on promoting a productive relationship between ethicists and faculty members in the disciplines.” If you would like to join the discussion, please log-in or register as a new user on the PSI website at www.scholarlyintegrity.org/RegisterUser.aspx

National News in Research Ethics & Graduate Education

NEW CGS GRANT ON ETHICS IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The Council of Graduate Schools has announced a new, three-year [grant](#) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) on research ethics in international collaborations. The project will bring together two areas of CGS best practice research, scholarly and research integrity and graduate international collaborations, both of which have identified a need to better prepare graduate students to navigate the complex issues that arise in the context of international research. Funded by NSF’s Ethics Education in Science and Engineering (EERE) program, the project will focus on the needs of students enrolled in science and engineering programs at U.S. institutions.

Through five sub-awards to U.S. universities, the project will develop model approaches to assessing the learning of students who participate in collaborations such as joint and dual degree programs and research collaborations and exchanges. In addition CGS will coordinate a set of activities designed to identify and test learning outcomes for such programs and examine how best to teach graduate students the skills they need to confront the ethical challenges of international research. The collaboration of CGS and project awardees will result in case studies based on successful program strategies and an online repository of graduate learning outcomes for international collaborations. CGS will announce a Request for Proposals to members in Spring 2012.

NSF FUNDS INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE ON RESEARCH ETHICS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) has announced that two faculty researchers have received an award from NSF to develop an interdisciplinary, graduate-level course on engineering and science ethics. The project will result in four multimedia modules, all led by graduate students, to be shared widely with the graduate community. The proposal was developed by Marc Edwards, the Charles Lunsford Professor of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech and Yanna Lambrinidou, adjunct Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech’s National Capital Region Campus. According to the [press release](#) issued by Virginia Tech, the course “emphasizes the importance of seeking out and listening to the concerns of diverse stakeholders as a ‘best practice’ for engineers and scientists.”

NATURE EXPLORES RETRACTIONS IN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

A recent [article](#) in *Nature* highlights a number of new issues and controversies regarding the retraction of scientific publications (*Nature* 478, 26-28 (2011)/doi: 10.1038/478026a). Noting the rising number of retractions, the article explores various reasons for the trend, including new software that detects plagiarism and image manipulation, a wider web readership, as well as the possibility, noted in the article by research ethics expert Nicolas Steneck, that there is a growing public awareness of research misconduct. A number of noted scientists and experts in research misconduct share their perspectives on the issue and endorse a variety of ways that the scientific and publishing communities might productively respond to the trend.

Upcoming Events

ORI ANNOUNCES NEW DATES FOR QUEST CONFERENCE

The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has announced new dates for the Quest for Research Excellence Conference, postponed in August 2011 due to Hurricane Irene. The conference will now take place **March 15-16, 2012** at the Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center. The conference agenda will be similar to the one posted this summer and will feature Dr. Joe Palca from National Public Radio and a mini Boot Camp for Research Integrity Officers (RIO's). Stay tuned for conference details and a link to the new conference website.

REGISTRATION REMINDERS FOR 2011 CONFERENCES

Registration deadlines are approaching for two major conferences that address issues in research integrity for researchers and institutions:

The [53rd Annual Conference](#) of the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) will be held in Washington, DC from November 6-9, 2011. The program includes concurrent sessions and workshop programs designed for different levels of experience in research administration. A number of [registration](#) packages are available.

The [2011 Advancing Ethical Research Conference](#) will take place from December 2-4, 2011 in National Harbor, Maryland, with Pre-Conference programs beginning December 1, 2011. The regular [registration](#) period will be open until **November 11, 2011**. Jointly sponsored by PRIM&R (Public Integrity in Medicine and Research), Boston University, and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the conference will address the theme of "Harmonizing Ethics, Regulations, and Research."

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