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Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA HOLDS RESEARCH INTEGRITY DAYS CONFERENCE

On January 22, 2010, the [University of Arizona](#) held its First Annual Research Integrity Days Conference, an event co-sponsored by the UA Office for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the Graduate College, with support from the CGS Project for Scholarly Integrity. The day-long conference began with a welcome and introductions from Dr. Andrew Comrie, UA Graduate Dean, and Dr. Elizabeth Boyd, Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance and Policy, and was followed by a series of plenary sessions led by Master Professors in Research Integrity and Administrators with direct involvement in Research Integrity initiatives at UA. A full conference [agenda](#) can be found on the Website of UA's [Office for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#), which includes a [web page](#) devoted to the Project for Scholarly Integrity.

Plenary Sessions addressed a number of specific categories of research integrity as defined by the Office of Research Integrity along with topics of general concern to graduate students and faculty. Dr. Benedict Columbi, Assistant Professor in the Department of American Indian Studies, and Kathleen Van Vlack, a PhD Candidate, delivered a presentation on the ethical issues surrounding research on native peoples, "[Successful Research in Indian Country: Respecting the Cultural Integrity and Sovereignty of Native Nations;](#)" and Dr. Doug Cromey, Assistant Scientific Investigator in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy discussed image manipulation in "The Darkroom is Closed—Image Ethics for a New Generation." Presenters also addressed the social, pedagogical, and institutional structures surrounding research training and practice: Dr. Jenny Hoit, Professor of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences presented on "[Mentoring with Integrity;](#)" Dr. Cindy Rankin, Lecturer and Research Integrity Officer in the Department of Physiology spoke about authorship in "[Yours, Mine & Ours: the Ethics of Authorship;](#)" Dr. Gail Burd, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Distinguished Professor, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology addressed "Science, Society, and Ethics;" and Dr. Malcolm Hughes, Regents Professor, Laboratory of Tree Ring Research, discussed data ownership and integrity in the environmental sciences in "Lessons from Climate Wars—A Teachable Moment."

The conference also featured a "Grantees Showcase" in which graduate students and faculty who had received Small Grants for RCR Curriculum Development presented their

projects. Lora Grainger, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Immunobiology gave a presentation titled [“Strategies for Success: Research Integrity in the life Sciences Laboratory, A Workshop for First-Year Graduate Students;”](#) Dr. Geoff Boyce, a Graduate Teaching Assistant and Professor in the School of Geography and Regional Development discussed [“The Ethics of Geospatial Research with Politically Vulnerable Populations: Developing on Online Multimedia Toolbox;”](#) and Alexandra Trueman, a PhD candidate in the Department of Linguistics explored [“Education and Ethics for Linguistic Fieldwork.”](#)

The conference concluded with a group discussion for further integrating RCR into graduate education and research activities. Ideas included a single, campus-wide website for RCR training and educational materials, using a “Train the Trainers” approach to disseminate research integrity throughout the graduate community, continuing to offer campus-wide workshops, and encouraging the continued development of discipline-specific training materials that can be incorporated into existing graduate courses.

EMORY HIGHLIGHTS RESEARCH ETHICS THROUGH PSI SPEAKER SERIES

As part of its Project for Scholarly Integrity, [Emory University](#) launched the 2009-10 speaker series “Beyond Right & Wrong: Engaging Ethics at Emory.” In October 2009, the inaugural event of this series featured the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Tina Gunsalus, who presented to an audience of faculty, researchers and students on research integrity in the current national policy environment. Professor Gunsalus also hosted a small workshop for Emory faculty on whistleblowing in data management. This event was followed by a November presentation and panel discussion featuring Dr. Nicholas Steneck, a consultant to the Office of Research Integrity and professor at the University of Michigan. Dr. Steneck’s presentation focused on scholarly misconduct— why it matters and how it can be eliminated. The next event in the series was a presentation and panel discussion featuring North Carolina State’s Dr. Gary Comstock (see below). The final event of this academic year is scheduled for April 20, 2010 and will feature Harvard University’s Dr. Greg Koski, former director of the Office for Human Research Protections. Dr. Koski will present on scholarly integrity and its relevance in a rapidly evolving world. He will later be joined by a panel of Emory faculty and researchers to discuss these issues at Emory.

According to the Laney Graduate School’s Dean Lisa Tedesco, the Project for Scholarly Integrity is as timely as it is important. “The advancement of research is a cornerstone of our work here at Emory University, and we are committed to satisfying training requirements in the responsible conduct of research for all of our researchers. But this isn’t enough. We are striving to move beyond compliance to nurture a community of scholars that is equipped to confront and engage issues of scholarly integrity in their everyday lives as professionals and citizens of the world. My colleagues and co-leaders on this project, Associate Dean Dr. Mark Risjord and Professor of Anthropology Dr. Michelle Lampl, have done an outstanding job to bring these issues to the attention and forefront of discussion here at Emory and in our community.”

On March 3, 2010, Emory held the most recent [event](#) in the speaker series, a Panel Discussion led by Dr. Gary Comstock, Professor of Philosophy at North Carolina State University, which addressed the subject of Animals in Research. Dr. Comstock is the author of *Vexing Nature? On the Ethical Case against Agricultural Biotechnology*, and brought a philosophical perspective to one of the complex tensions within animal research— on the one hand, the strong potential of research involving animals to support advances in science and medicine that benefit human life, and on the other, the potential for unjust harm and use of animals. Joining the panel discussion were Emory faculty and researchers

with special knowledge of ethical issues surrounding animals in research. The audience included Emory faculty and students as well as members of IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) and the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association. Given the focus and featured discussants of this event, the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association approved the event as meeting the Legal, Ethical and Professional training requirement necessary for the 2010 license renewal of all practicing veterinarians in Georgia.

Dr. Comstock brought a broad-based philosophical background to the panel: as a researcher, he has studied philosophical distinctions between humans and animals, and currently serves as editor-in-chief of *On the Human*, a division of the National Humanities Center's digital humanities project. This [online resource](#) provides a forum for scientists and humanists who examine definitions of human life as well as ethical claims grounded in ideas of the human. The dedicated website of *On the Human* can be found on the PSI's [Online Resource Library](#) along with other online resources and discussion forums devoted to various topics in research ethics and RCR.

As editor-in-chief of the *OpenSeminar In Research Ethics*, which serves as a repository of online pedagogical resources designed for junior researchers, and as the former director of NC State's research and professional ethics program, Dr. Comstock also has significant experience in research ethics education. His presentation supported Emory's mission of using the PSI to prepare students, researchers, and faculty for the complex ethical challenges and responsibilities of 21st-century research.

Recent and Upcoming Events

AAAS HOLDS SESSION ON NSF'S ROLE IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ETHICS

On February 19, 2010, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting in San Diego featured a session on "NSF and Ethics in Science and Engineering Education." Organized by Dr. Rachele Hollander, Director of the Center for Engineering, Ethics and Society at the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and moderated by Michael E. Gorman, Program Director for the division of Science, Technology & Society at NSF, the session was designed as a professional development workshop and to facilitate a discussion between NSF program directors supporting NSF's implementation of the America COMPETES Act and institutions and researchers currently developing initiatives that help institutions and individuals respond to the federal mandate. The full [agenda](#) for the session and links to PowerPoint Presentations can be found on the NSF-funded [Ethics in Science and Engineering National Clearinghouse beta site](#).

ORI ANNOUNCES CONFERENCE: QUEST FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has announced a [conference](#), Quest for Research Excellence, to be held from November 1-3, 2010 in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the conference is to support the role of various groups that contribute directly to the research enterprise, including journal editors, principal investigators, postdoctoral students, graduate students, funding agencies, professional societies, clinical researchers, and others. The conference will follow a pre-conference workshop on lab management on October 31, and both events will be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park.

Visit <http://ori.dhhs.gov> for updates on registration information and the conference program.

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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