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# Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

# DUKE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES SEQUENCED RCR TRAINING FOR ALL PHD STUDENTS

As an Affiliate of the Project for Scholarly Integrity, Duke University has shown exceptional commitments to developing institution-wide activities that support the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Since 2003, Duke University Graduate School has required Ph.D. students in every department and program to complete a series of RCR training workshops that are documented on official transcripts. The mandatory RCR training is sequenced to include the completion of one of three RCR Orientation events tailored to academic divisions, followed by participation in several 2-hour RCR Forum workshops offered by the Graduate School, certain departments, or campus centers or institutes. This fall, nearly 500 entering Ph.D. students in almost 50 departments and programs attended one of three RCR Orientation sessions. Two of these events were held on the Duke campus: nearly 145 students attended the Humanities and Social Sciences Workshop, and nearly 250 students participated in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Workshop. Dr. David Resnik, Bioethicist and Institutional Review Board Chair at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), gave a keynote address with an international focus, "Responsible Conduct in Research: A Global Concern," and Duke faculty from various disciplines engaged students in discussion on a broad range of topics, including the development of research guestions, human subjects research, animal subjects, and ethical issues raised by new technologies. Dr. Doug James, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, said that by offering RCR training in face-to-face activities that are interdisciplinary, "Duke is striving to build a sense of community and openness so that conversations about academic and research integrity become part of the normal experience of everyday researchers." Dr. Jo Rae Wright, Dean of the Graduate School, commented that "Duke views RCR training for graduate students as a priority and therefore it is a requirement for graduation. We strive to provide training that is relevant to students in all disciplines and to engage students in small group discussions."

A third event, the <u>Beaufort Ethics Retreat</u> held at Duke's Marine Laboratory in Beaufort, North Carolina, was developed in 1996 by Dean Wright, with support from the Graduate School and the Kenan Institute for Ethics. The weekend retreat is required for all students in the basic medical sciences, and this year involved nearly 115 students, all of whom received 12 hours of credit in RCR training toward the total requirement of 18 hours. As reported in an article in Duke's <u>Graduate School Newsletter</u>, "This retreat not only serves to introduce serious content in a relaxed atmosphere, but also provides an informal setting in which entering students can meet and talk with nearly 30 faculty and advanced graduate students who serve as TAs for the retreat." Duke participated in the initial CGS/ORI RCR project (focused on the basic medical sciences) and is completing an NSF EESE project on ethics education for graduate students involved in nanoscience research with the Pratt School of Engineering. They plan to develop online resources that can be adapted by other institutions.

#### **National News in Research Ethics**

#### NSF PUBLISHES 2010 AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR 2010

On October 1, the National Science Foundation published the <u>2010 Proposal and Award</u> <u>Policies and Procedures Guidelines</u>, including the Award and Administration Guidelines that outline NSF's expectations in light of new <u>federal rules</u> mandating institutional plans for RCR Education. The new rule requires that "each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project." [Note: Dr. Peggy Fischer, Associate Inspector General for Investigations at NSF, will provide more information about the new guidelines in the SRA webinar described below].

#### **Upcoming and Past Events**

#### SRA OFFERING WEBINAR ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NSF REQUIREMENT

The Society of Research Administrators International will offer a webinar titled <u>"Interpretation and Implementation of NSF's Requirement to Facilitate the Ethical Conduct</u> <u>of Research,"</u> on Thursday, November 19, 2009, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. EST. All registered attendees will receive a certificate of completion for 1.5 hours of educational credit (only registered attendees will receive credit).

In addition to providing an overview of NSF's new training requirement for institutions receiving NSF funds, the webinar will feature three speakers who will provide different perspectives on the new mandate:

**Peggy Fischer**, Associate Inspector General for Investigations at the National Science Foundation, will "provide an insider's view of the NSF regulation" and explain NSF's expectations for institutions.

**Dena Plemmons**, Coordinator of Research Ethics Initiatives at San Diego State University and an adjunct faculty member teaching courses in research ethics, will present various approaches and resources that may be useful to institutions as they develop their plans for meeting the new requirement.

**Camille Nebeker**, Director of Research Affairs at SDSU, will discuss her institution's own plan for implementing the policy institution-wide.

More information about the webinar, including details of the webinar format and registration fees, can be accessed on the <u>SRA Website</u>. Group rates are available for \$25-\$50 per person depending on the group size. The website will also allow you to test your computer to ensure that it will be able to access the webinar on November 19. Should you have difficulties registering or have additional questions, please contact Ms. Tina Johnson, who can be reached at 703-741-0140 or at tjohnson@srainternational.org.

## ESF AND ORI HOLD WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY EDUCATION

The European Science Foundation and the Office of Research Integrity co-sponsored a workshop, "Responsible Conduct of Research: Good Research Practices and Research Integrity Training," in Strasbourg, France, from October 27-28, 2009. Convening experts from Europe and the U.S., the workshop addressed needs in RCR education, training programs developed by international organizations working to support research integrity, and common areas of future work to establish educational priorities, benchmarks, and best practices for research integrity worldwide. Workshop topics included needs and opportunities at regional, national, and institutional levels, and programs and courses on research integrity. Participants also developed a framework document that will guide the World Conference on research integrity, scheduled to take place in Singapore in 2010. More information about the workshop program can be found on the ESF website.

While there was a strong focus on European needs in Research Integrity education, the conference also sought to establish areas of possible collaboration between European and American institutions. U.S. presenters at the conference included Dr. John Galland, Director of the Division on Education and Integrity at ORI; Dr. Nicholas Steneck, Director of the Research Ethics and Integrity Program of the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research; Dr. Elizabeth Heitman, Responsible Conduct of Research Course Director at the Center for Clinical and Research Ethics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Professor Melissa Anderson, Professor of higher education, Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota; and Dr. Daniel Denecke, Director of Best Practices at the Council of Graduate Schools. As Director of the Project for Scholarly Integrity, Dr. Denecke presented on the collective goals of the institutions involved in the project as well as on the Awardees' institutional activities.

#### For more information about the Project for Scholarly Integrity, please contact:

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