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Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

PSI AWARDEES COLLABORATE ON COMMON CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

In the March 17, 2009 meeting for PSI Awardee institutions, project PIs moved forward with plans to administer a common assessment survey at each of their institutions. Developed by Drs. Brian Martinson and Carol Thrush, the survey measures factors that are believed to correlate with the overall strengths and vulnerabilities of research cultures, and fulfills a project plan to collectively assess the participating universities' research environments before full implementation of the individual project plans. The results of the survey, which awardees agreed to administer before or during the Fall of 2009, will allow institutions to gain a comprehensive assessment of their research environments and identify areas in need of future work. The survey will be made available to project affiliates and other interested universities via the PSI website later in 2009.

PSI WEBSITE TO INCORPORATE AAAS-NATIONAL ACADEMIES RESOURCES ON SCHOLARLY INTEGRITY

Since 2008, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the National Academies have maintained a compilation of online resources on Scientific Misconduct and Research Integrity. AAAS and the National Academies have recently invited CGS to merge the resources on the AAAS website into the website of the Project for Scholarly Integrity (www.scholarlyintegrity.org). The merge will have the additional advantage of allowing researchers to use the PSI website's search function.

National News in Research Ethics

MAY 2009 ORI CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN NIAGARA FALLS

The Office of Research Integrity, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Roswell Park Cancer Institute will sponsor a conference on Research Integrity from May 15 to 17, 2009 in Niagara Falls, NY. The conference addresses issues in research ethics within

a range of different fields, including policy studies, behavioral analysis, law, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, education, biomedical sciences, and information science. The program covers topics related to specific types of research (conflict of interest, health care research) as well as topics associated with ethical deliberation more broadly (critical reasoning skills) and can be accessed online at:

www.roswellpark.org/files/1_2_1/Education/PROGRAM_v6_040609.pdf

The conference is open to investigators, researchers, research coordinators, Institutional Review Board staff and members, institutional officials, pharmaceutical research personnel, department chairs, basic science students, and medical personnel with an interest in research. Online registration can be completed at:

www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteId=192&eventDisp=ORI2009

Recent and Upcoming Events

CGS HOSTS MEETING ON NATIONAL RESEARCH ETHICS AND RCR RESOURCES

On April 9, 2009, the Council of Graduate Schools hosted a meeting organized by Drs. Michael Kalichman (UC San Diego) and Phil Langlais (Old Dominion University) for developers of national resources on research ethics and RCR education. The purpose of the meeting was to share resources and ideas in the field of research ethics education and discuss new possibilities for future collaboration. Participants identified a number of priority areas in which future collaborative work is needed, including: assessing the outcomes of various approaches to training and education; addressing the particular issues that arise in the context of international research collaborations; and increasing and improving the resources currently available and under development for researchers and educators. Also discussed were strategies of supplementing regulatory structures with more positive approaches to strengthening research cultures.

PLENARY SESSION ON PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH ETHICS AT MAGS CONFERENCE

The April 2009 conference of the CGS Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) featured a plenary session devoted to the topic of Professional Integrity. The plenary speaker, Dr. Jason Borenstein, Director of Graduate Research Ethics Programs at the Georgia Institute of Technology, delivered a presentation entitled "Professional Ethics and Research Ethics in Science and Engineering." Dr. Borenstein discussed the important stakes behind graduate ethics training: training programs not only respond to the federal government's recent mandate to provide ethics training to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, but also support values integral to the practice of science. The presentation also defined the potential content, goals, and format of an effective ethics program, and identified many of the most significant recent resources available on the topic, including books, journals, institutional programs and websites, and online training courses.

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