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Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM TO PROVIDE TA TRAINING IN RCR

Each fall, the Graduate School at the University of Alabama at Birmingham trains 30–40 new graduate TAs in the elements of pedagogy and curriculum development to equip them to teach and mentor undergraduate students in courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Science. This year, as part of UAB's Project for Scholarly Integrity, the TAs themselves will be instructed in an area of responsible conduct of research (for example, data integrity) and will then, as a group, create and implement a lesson plan related to that topic. The project recognizes the fact that today's graduate teaching assistants are on the front lines, as both instructors and role models, of issues involving scholarly integrity. The opportunity to develop lessons will encourage comprehensive thinking and discussion of the RCR topic among the TAs, in addition to enhancing their skills as future instructors. "We anticipate that this experience will prompt these future faculty to think more consciously about embedding ethics lessons in their courses as they assume more permanent teaching positions," says Dr. Bryan Noe, Dean of the UAB Graduate School. "Another benefit of our strategy is the engagement of undergraduate students in discussions of ethical behavior early in their academic careers." The effectiveness of this approach will be assessed using pre- and post-tests for both the TAs and their undergraduate students.

EMORY INVOLVES DIVISION OF ANIMAL RESOURCES IN PSI PROJECT

Emory University is currently working to coordinate communication on topics related to research ethics between the Graduate School and various schools and divisions throughout the campus. In late April, members of Emory's PSI implementation group, Dean and Project PI Lisa Tedesco, Associate Dean Mark Risjord, and Dr. Michelle Lampl met with Dr. Michael Huerkamp, Director of Emory's Division of Animal Resources (DAR), to discuss strategies to improve research climate across the university. Dean Tedesco reports that Dr. Huerkamp provided an overview of resources and tools that were specific to the ethics of research involving animals and in some cases, applicable to other programs. One area of common concern shared by the DAR and the PSI implementation group was the importance of creating a research climate in which ethics is valued. For example, the DAR has developed strategies in the orientation of facility users and in the training of graduate

veterinarians for creating a laboratory environment that promotes ethical awareness and encourages difficult conversations about ethical issues surrounding animal research. Dr. Tedesco observed that some of these strategies can be applied to other programs. “Dr. Huerkamp’s pedagogy includes historical context for the development of ethical standards, as well as use and reliance on consultation with colleagues and experts for problem solving when questions arise, and we plan to work with him to advance understanding of the issues for graduate students” reported Dr. Tedesco. More information about current programs to train DAR researchers can be found at the division’s [website](#) and on the website of Emory’s [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee \(IACUC\)](#).

National News in Research Ethics

NIH ISSUE CALL FOR COMMENT ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is currently [seeking public comment](#) on regulations governing financial conflicts of interest in federally-funded research. While the current regulations, issued in 1995, establish standards for avoiding financially-motivated bias in scientific research, the federal government is now aiming to expand and develop these rules through the proposed changes described in the [Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making \(ANPRM\)](#). The changes respond to the growing frequency of collaborations between research and industry and seek to address important new aspects of these relationships. Comments are encouraged from the general public, individual Investigators, scientific societies and associations, Members of Congress, other Federal agencies that support or conduct research, and institutions that receive Public Health Services funds to conduct or support biomedical or behavioral research, and are due **July 7, 2009**.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING TO LAUNCH ONLINE ETHICS CENTER

Through a grant from the National Science Foundation, the [National Academy of Engineering \(NAE\)](#) is creating a collection of new resources to help prepare individuals and institutions to meet the new requirements of the America COMPETES Act. Beginning October 1, 2009, institutions applying for NSF funding must provide a plan for “appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will participate in the proposed research project.” They must also provide plans to support the mentoring of postgraduate researchers who will benefit from NSF funds. The NAE will integrate resources related to these topics onto their existing [Online Ethics Center \(OEC\)](#) and include topics and services designed specifically to support the work of university faculty and administrators, including:

- Careers in Ethics Education
- Ask-a-Peer
- Develop and Share a Resource
- Institutional Efforts in Ethics Education
- Instructional Efforts in Ethics Education
- Cases and the Cases Database
- Evaluation
- Bibliographies

NAE President Charles M. Vest notes that the resource also responds to new developments in research environments: “In a world where technology is rapidly changing and growing

in complexity, researchers are facing new ethical dilemmas. We are proud to be a resource for those grappling with these important issues." The NAE aims to complete most of their site modifications and developments by August 1, 2009.

Upcoming Events

PRIM&R PLANS CONFERENCE ON ADVANCING ETHICAL RESEARCH

[Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research \(PRIM&R\)](#), an organization supporting ethical standards in the conduct of biomedical, social science, behavioral, and educational research, has organized a conference titled "Advancing Ethical Research: Navigating the Future Using the Belmont Compass." Scheduled for **November 14-16, 2009**, in Nashville, Tennessee, the event will provide a forum for exchanging data, resources, and information about programs that support the function and management of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and Human Research Protection Programs (HRPPs). The program will feature poster presentations on programmatic strategies as well as scientific research with implications for the function of IRBs and HRPPs. Registration for the conference can be completed [here](#). The deadline for Early Bird Registration is **August 2, 2009**.

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