

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Penn State Hosts PSI Site Visit](#)
- [Emory Holds Forum on Required Ethics Training](#)
- [University of Wisconsin Holds RCR and Ethics Symposium](#)
- [Canadian Council Releases Integrity Report](#)
- [CGS to Host PSI Capstone Conference on October 30](#)

Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

PENN STATE HOSTS PSI SITE VISIT

As part of its PSI Award, [Penn State University](#) (PSU) collaborates with two other universities, [Michigan State University](#) (MSU) and the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), for a common climate assessment activity, and shares award funding with MSU to develop independent university projects. CGS staff members Daniel Denecke, Director of the PSI, and Julia Kent, Program Manager in the Best Practices division, followed their [June 2010 Site Visit to MSU](#) with a separate site visit to Penn State on September 23, 2010.

Dr. Regina Vasilatos-Younken, Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Suzanne Adair, Assistant Dean, began the visit with an update on current project activities. This overview was followed by a visit with Dr. Sharon Shriver, Assistant Director of Educational Programs at PSU's [Office for Research Protections](#). Dr. Shriver has been responsible for developing the [Scholarship and Research Integrity \(SARI\) program](#), a required program for graduate student education in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) that was described in the [July 2009 PSI Newsletter](#). Dr. Shriver discussed the challenges of providing high-quality training across disciplines, especially in fields such as the humanities, where online training modules are still under development.

Over lunch, Dr. Adair introduced the site visitors to a group of graduate students and postdocs from a range of science and social science disciplines. The students shared their experiences in RCR training courses currently required by PSU as well as feedback on PSU's project goals. Students emphasized the importance of strong mentoring to their development as researchers and the need for clear communication between students and faculty about professional standards for research integrity.

In the afternoon, site visitors met with Associate Deans for Research and Graduate Education involved in the implementation of PSU's assessment efforts: Dr. Neil Sharkey, (College of Health and Human Development); Dr. Denise Soloman (College of Liberal Arts), and Dr. Alan Scaroni, (College of Earth and Mineral Sciences). As college associate deans, they have also played a role in the roll-out of data from the activities and climate assessments used by all PSI awardees. One associate dean commented that the activities assessment instrument has been one of their most important tools for starting conversations with faculty about needs and vulnerabilities surrounding RCR and scholarly integrity within departments. The College associate deans also stressed that support from the Graduate Dean's office has made it easier for them to address key issues and needs with faculty.

The final meeting of the day was a wrap-up visit with Dr. Adair and Dr. Henry Foley, Vice President for Research and Graduate Dean. Dr. Foley explained that further development of required graduate training opportunities for RCR and scholarly integrity is a key priority of the graduate school, and that his staff will continue to solicit comments on ways to make this training more effective. Dr. Adair commented that "the CGS site visit provided a wonderful opportunity to enhance the dialogue around RCR issues across the institution and from multiple perspectives, which ultimately helps to ensure that we are on the right track."

EMORY HOLDS FORUM ON REQUIRED ETHICS TRAINING

On October 27th, Emory's Laney Graduate School held an open forum to discuss the integration of training in Research Ethics and Scholarly Integrity into PhD Curricula. Attendees were invited to help shape the integration plan by helping to identify support, training, and coursework needs, and addressing questions about the tracking and assessment of new requirements. More information can be found on the [Laney Graduate School website](#).

A summary of the Graduate School's plan for integrating education for research ethics and scholarly integrity into graduate curricula is detailed in the summary of Emory's PSI site visit, described in the [September 2010 PSI Newsletter](#).

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN HOLDS RCR, ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

On November 24th, the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), a member of the three-university PSI consortium with Penn State and MSU, will hold a fall symposium on responsible conduct and ethical decision-making in research. While the University of Wisconsin chose not to receive PSI funding, the university has developed activities that promote education for RCR and Scholarly Integrity.

The symposium is the inaugural event of one such activity sponsored by UW's Graduate School, the Integrating Research Ethics and Scholarship (IRES) initiative. According to the UW Graduate School [website](#), the purpose

of IRES is to “offer novice and seasoned researchers and scholars educational opportunities and resources that reflect best practices in ethics education and scholarly integrity.”

The morning session, titled “Henrietta Lacks and Research Practices” is geared to graduate students and postdocs and is based on ethical questions raised by science writer Rebecca Skloot’s 2010 publication, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. The book tells the story of Lacks, whose cells were used without her knowledge to develop “immortal” human cells that reproduce every 24 hours. Break-out discussions led by faculty members will address topics such as responsible authorship, patenting, and communicating science to the public. Two other PSI awardees, Columbia and Emory, have also organized events around discussions of Skloot’s book.

The issue of public trust in the sciences, and the role of universities in supporting this trust, will be addressed at an evening session open to the public, “Who Decides and Who Profits: Research at UW-Madison.” Researchers, research administrators, and deans will explore the administrative processes surrounding research and research funding. According to an October 20 [article](#) about the event on the UW website, topics for public discussion will include “the costs and benefits of research, research oversight and infrastructure at UW-Madison, how the public can influence the research agenda, how federal and state money is spent, and why basic research science is done.”

National and International News in Research Ethics

CANADIAN COUNCIL RELEASES INTEGRITY REPORT

On October 21, 2010, the [Council of Canadian Academies](#), a non-profit corporation that conducts public policy research, has issued a report on the research integrity needs of individual researchers, funders, and institutions in Canada. The report, *Honesty, Accountability and Trust: Fostering Research Integrity in Canada*, was authored by 14 experts charged with addressing principles and mechanisms to inform the policies of federal agencies that fund research.

A key recommendation of the report was the creation of a Canadian Council for Research Integrity (CCRI) that would provide guidance on research integrity principles and educational resources, and facilitate the exchange of information about addressing research misconduct. The Council would not, however, play a role in investigating or punishing violations of research conduct. Also included in the report is a set of recommended “core values” and principles for research integrity.

The Council’s [press release](#) provides additional details on the report, and the full report is available in English and French at www.scienceadvice.ca.

Upcoming Events

CGS TO HOST PSI CAPSTONE CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 30

The [Council of Graduate Schools](#) (CGS) will hold a Capstone Conference for the Project for Scholarly Integrity on Saturday, October 30th at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC. The conference will assemble deans and PIs at PSI Awardee and Affiliate institutions, deans representing universities that received awards on CGS's two previous ORI and NSF-funded RCR projects, researchers, and representatives of funding agencies and the PSI's funder, the U.S. [Office of Research Integrity](#).

The conference will highlight lessons learned over the course of the collective and individual project, outline future needs, and plan next steps for broadening the impact of the PSI. The conference will also be the first formal occasion on which the [National Science Foundation](#) will present plans to assess the implementation process of its mandate requiring that all graduate students and postdocs funded by NSF receive training in the Responsible Conduct of Research.

CGS is pleased to announce that the agenda for the meeting includes the following topics and speakers:

Welcome and Introduction

Debra W. Stewart, President, Council of Graduate Schools

Keynote Address

John Galland, Director, Division of Education and Integrity, Office of Research Integrity

Graduate Education for Research and Scholarly Integrity: Institutions as Levers for Change in U.S. Science, Research, and Scholarship

The Role of Funding Agencies

Jean Feldman, Head, Policy Office, National Science Foundation

Aaron Manka, Investigative Scientist, Office of the Inspector General, National Science Foundation

Current Strengths and Needs in RCR and Research Ethics Education

Elizabeth Heitman, Vanderbilt University

Engaging the Whole Community

Jeffrey Engler, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Creating Effective Programs

Making Ethics Integral to Research Training

Lisa Tedesco and Mark Risjord, Emory University

Engaging Faculty and Disciplines
Henry Foley and Suzanne Adair, Penn State University

Integrating Research Ethics into the Professional Development of
Future Scholars and Researchers
Jan Allen, Columbia University

Developing Effective Assessments and Interventions

The Role of Assessment in the Project for Scholarly Integrity
Daniel Denecke, Council of Graduate Schools

Using Climate Assessment to Strengthen Programs and Institutions
Karen Klomparens, Michigan State University

Lessons Learned in Assessing Institutional Climate for Research and
Scholarly Integrity
*Brian Martinson, HealthPartners Research Foundation and
Carol Thrush, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*

A complete agenda and presentations for the conference will soon be
available on the CGS website. Stay tuned for a discussion of the conference
in the November 2010 PSI Newsletter.

**If you would like to suggest an event, activity, or news item for
inclusion in the PSI Newsletter, please contact Julia Kent at the
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