

PSI Project for Council of
Graduate Schools Scholarly Integrity
MONTHLY UPDATE
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Updates on the Project for Scholarly Integrity

PENN STATE ANNOUNCES NEW RESEARCH INTEGRITY WORKSHOPS

The Office of Research Protections at Penn State University, a PSI awardee, has announced its schedule of Research Integrity Workshops for the Spring 2012 semester.

[The Scholarship and Research Ethics Brownbag Series](#) is offered to Penn State faculty, students and research personnel and addresses the nine areas of RCR instruction as defined by ORI and other entities. Topics for Spring 2012 include "Lost (and Found) in Translation: Ethical Dimensions of Reporting on Research to Lay Audiences," and "Ethical Challenges in Studying Disparity in Application of PA's Death Penalty."

[The Survival Skills and Ethics Series](#) addresses professional skills needed to navigate ethical issues and is open to graduate students and postdocs. This semester the workshops will be "Presenting Your Scientific Research" and "Writing on Your Scientific Research."

[The IRB 101 Brownbag Series](#) is designed to educate Penn State researchers about the IRB process and address issues related to human subjects research. This semester they are led by staff and directors of Penn State research centers: the Social, Life & Engineering Sciences Imaging Center, the Population Research Institute, the Center for Food Innovation, and the Geographic Information Analysis Core.

Some of the sessions count toward credit in Penn State's [Scholarship and Research Integrity](#) (SARI) program, a training program in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) that became required of all graduate students at Penn State in 2009. As reported in the [April 2011 PSI Newsletter](#), Penn State [expanded the program](#) in 2011 to include all new Penn State faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and undergraduate researchers.

UNM OFFERS NEW INTEGRITY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

[The University of New Mexico](#) (UNM), a PSI Affiliate, recently reported a series of new and planned projects to support the preparation of graduate students in research integrity and the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). In 2008, UNM President David Schmidly established a responsible conduct of research (RCR) program, housed in the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and directed by Dr. William Gannon. The RCR program maintains UNM's RCR plan, offers courses and symposia as well as instruction and consultation, tracks certification, and actively contacts students, investigators, faculty, deans, chairs, directors and others about RCR requirements and research ethics opportunities. The RCR program has quickly adapted to federal funding requirements, primarily those established by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Gannon is optimistic about the direction the RCR program is headed. "Despite budgetary hardships, top administrators as well as faculty are extremely receptive and hopeful that their students can be exposed to the high standards RCR represents. They do not look at this as compliance—and it is not—they look at it as a tune-up for individuals and verbalizing university and professional expectations."

UNM's [RCR program](#) provides flexible ways to meet high expectations for participatory learning in ORI's major content areas for the responsible conduct of research. Aside from assuring that participants in all new grants awarded to UNM by federal agencies have completed RCR instruction, the program has gone beyond minimum standards of compliance, encouraging many additional graduate students, undergraduate students, and postdocs to become RCR-certified. Those wishing to be certified have the option of taking established courses, attending a series of symposia/workshops, and participating in faculty-offered workshops, "Ethics across the Curriculum" or "Ethics in Context." In the workshops, individual researchers or lab managers provide RCR content to a smaller group over a longer time in a more convenient, yet still curriculum-based, format. All types of activities can count toward certification if they meet the standards of the RCR program.

One of the most popular methods for acquiring RCR certification and learning ethical conduct in research has been through the Graduate Student Funding Initiative (GSFI). UNM established the GSFI as a collaboration between Dr. Julia Fulghum, (Vice President for Research), Dr. Gary Harrison, (Interim Dean of Graduate Studies), and the leaders of several other units at UNM. Dr. Elly Van Mil, Faculty Research Support Officer in the OVPR manages the GSFI workshop curriculum, which is designed as a career development program to help graduate students support their studies and prepare for future careers as researchers and faculty. GSFI offers non-credit certificates in Grant Writing and Proposal Development, PI Eligibility, Research Compliance as well as Responsible Conduct of Research. To promote a strong awareness of the principles of the responsible conduct of research, the GSFI certification requires completion of 8 or more sessions from the GSFI RCR menu.

Although UNM has yet to establish a comprehensive academic and research integrity program that is required of graduate students university-wide, the RCR program, the GSFI, and other efforts are gaining traction. For example, the College of Education, through the efforts of Dr. Deborah Rifienbarry, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Faculty Development, is now considering an academic integrity requirement that would provide graduate students with the tools to make good ethical decisions as they become professionals. Next steps include a multi-level assessment plan to evaluate activities and curricular resources and assess UNM's administrative climate for supporting RCR and integrity programs; these assessments will be conducted using the [Research Integrity Inventory Survey](#) and the [Survey of Organizational Research Climate](#) adopted by PSI project awardees.

Other planned activities include brown-bag RCR clubs and development of distance-learning modules (synchronous and asynchronous) with live moderators and discussion groups. For more information about UNM's RCR programs, please contact Bill Gannon (wgannon@unm.edu).

National and International News in Research Ethics & Graduate Education

NEW REPORT FROM PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON BIOETHICS

[The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues](#), an advisory panel composed of leaders in medicine, science, ethics, religion, law and engineering, has released a new [report](#), *Moral Science: Protecting Participants in Human Subjects Research* (December 2011). The report was commissioned by President Obama following the discovery of unethical research on sexually transmitted diseases conducted by the U.S. Health Service in Guatemala between 1946 and 1948. The Obama Administration directed the Commission to convene a panel to conduct a review of human subjects protection "to determine if Federal regulations and international standards adequately guard the health and well-being of participants in scientific studies supported by the Federal government." An investigation into the specific case of the Guatemalan study was also requested.

The resulting report addressed issues such as improving accountability and creating a culture of responsibility, and included 14 recommendations for strengthening the protection of research participants in federally-supported research. The full report can be downloaded at the link above and on the Commission's website.

Recent and Upcoming Events

APPE CONFERENCE OFFERS GRADUATE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) will hold its [21st Annual Meeting](#) in Cincinnati, Ohio from March 1-4, 2012. As an organization devoted to interdisciplinary scholarship on practical and professional ethics as well as teaching excellence in this area, APPE annually convenes representatives of different disciplines and professions. [Registration](#) for the APPE conference is available online. There is a deadline of **February 8**, 2012 for hotel reservations at the conference rate.

The meeting will feature two events with particular relevance to graduate education:

[Graduate Seminar on Teaching Practical and Professional Ethics](#)

On Thursday, March 1, Deni Elliott, Poynter Jamison Chair in Media Ethics and Press Policy at the University of South Florida and author of *Ethics in the First Person and Ethical Challenges*, will lead a four-hour seminar on the teaching of ethics for graduate students in all disciplines. The seminar confronts assumptions about the practicality of teaching ethics today, such as the belief that Gen-X students are not interested in ethics or that teaching practical ethics will not lead to a job. Overall it is designed to "boost confidence, confront pedagogical issues, and provide philosophical comfort." Graduate students may register for the seminar whether or not they attend the APPE conference.

[Workshop on Research Ethics Instruction](#)

On Friday, March 2, 2012, the APPE's Responsible Conduct of Research Education Committee (RCREC) will offer a half-day workshop, "RCR Instruction Face-to-Face." The workshop responds to the work of universities and other institutes to improve training in the responsible conduct of research in order to meet the requirements of NSF and NIH. The focus on "face to face" instruction addresses the interest of many universities in expanding its offerings in this area, particularly in light of NIH's statement that "online instruction is not considered adequate as the sole means of instruction."

The session will present "practical, easily implemented exercises and activities that can be incorporated into existing RCR programs, courses in research ethics, or other types of instructional events." Please address questions about the workshop to Kenneth D. Pimple, PhD, chair of the workshop planning committee, at pimple@indiana.edu. The session is one of five workshops included in the APPE meeting's Responsible Conduct of Research Track. More information about the other sessions can be found [here](#).

SMITHSONIAN CONFERENCE: THE TUSKEGEE EXPERIENCE

The Smithsonian Institution's Office of Sponsored Projects has announced a conference, "[The Tuskegee Experience](#)", on April 19, 2012 at the National Museum of Natural History. The conference is part of the Smithsonian Ethics Education Conference Series sponsored in collaboration with the Navy Medicine Institute, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Navy Medicine Veterans and Alumni Association, and others.

"The Tuskegee Experience" will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Tuskegee syphilis experiments that violated the human rights of research subjects in Tuskegee, Alabama. According to the conference description, the event seeks to encourage "a type of active remembering wherein the past reinterprets the present in the hope of the future." The opening keynote will be given by Dr. Rueben Warren, Professor and Director of Bioethics at the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Healthcare. The conference is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending are encouraged to [register online](#).

AAAS WORKSHOP: BEST PRACTICES IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

AAAS's [Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program](#) (SRHRL) will hold its annual "Workshop on Responsible Professional Practices in a Changing Research Environment" in conjunction with the association's annual meeting in Vancouver, BC (February 16-20, 2012). This year the workshop, funded by ORI, will address the topic, "International Research: Moving Towards Best Practices" and explore ethical questions and issues that emerge in international research:

- How can/do differences in laws, customs, resources, and norms facilitate or constrain research?
- How can researchers successfully navigate differences in normative expectations and traditions?
- How should basic matters such as research management responsibilities, reporting requirements, data collection and sharing, authorship, intellectual property, and oversight be decided?
- How can ethics training and education be designed to take into account cultural differences among members on an international research team.

Participants in the workshop will include government officials, researchers, and professional actors who will engage the audience in interactive activities. The [agenda](#) for the conference is now available on the SRHRL webpage.

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

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