

Improving Doctoral Education

Recommendations from the "Ph.D.s 10 Years Later Study"

by Maresi Nerad and Joseph Cerny

Editor's Note—At the end of their plenary session, *Career Paths of Ph.D. Recipients: Final Results from the 10 Years Later Study*, at the Annual Meeting in December, Joseph Cerny and Maresi Nerad offered a list of actions required to improve doctoral programs for students. The listing has been requested often and is reprinted here.

For more information about the study or these recommendations, please contact Joseph Cerny, vice chancellor for research and graduate dean at the University of California, Berkeley, or Maresi Nerad, presently CGS dean in residence at <mnerad@cgs.nche.edu>.

Actions Required to Improve Doctoral Education

1 Spend more time, money, and effort on career planning and placement activities for doctoral students

- ❖ Establish collaboration between career planning and placement centers and academic departments for career planning workshop activities to be offered starting the third year of the doctoral program.
- ❖ Work with faculty to broaden the acceptance of BGN¹ careers as legitimate and desirable Ph.D. outcomes.

2 Continue to support all students to complete their degrees

- ❖ Continue to reward research mentoring by faculty.
- ❖ Assist our minority students to find men-

toring and networks across departments (This has proven particularly helpful).

3 Focus on postdoctoral appointees

- ❖ Graduate dean or the vice chancellor for research assumes responsibility for postdoctoral affairs.
- ❖ Monitor the maximum 5-6 years spent in postdoctoral positions.
- ❖ Ensure adequate training, salary, and health insurance.
- ❖ Support professional skills training and placement workshops.
- ❖ Create a campus-wide postdoctoral community (postdoc society).

4 Improve assessment of program evaluation by students

Ideally:

- ❖ Conduct surveys at regular intervals during the doctoral program.
- ❖ Require an exit survey.
- ❖ Conduct a 5-year-out benchmark survey of doctoral program satisfaction: Would you do the Ph.D. in your field? At your university?

5 Develop creative solutions for dual career couples within the university

- ❖ Heighten awareness to offer more spousal accommodation during faculty hiring process.
- ❖ Support the establishment of a more family-friendly university, especially for women in science and engineering.

Notes

¹Business, government, and nonprofit sector.

Upcoming Meetings

Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct Inquiry, Investigation and Outcomes

June 4-5

The American Association for the Advancement of Science and the U.S. Office of Research Integrity is convening a one-and-a-half-day practicum on responding to allegations of research misconduct. To help improve understanding of policies, procedures, and methods for responding to allegations of research misconduct, the practicum will present an opportunity to obtain hands-on experience with matters surrounding research misconduct, and interact with colleagues and government officials.

Topics to be covered include the proposed new federal-wide definition of research misconduct and policy for pursuing allegations, what to do when someone brings an allegation, who should be involved, what evidence needs to be gathered, how to conduct an inquiry and investigation, how institutional regulations relate to those of the federal government, how to secure and retain records, and who to inform of the outcome.

The practicum is intended for an audience of faculty, university, and medical school administrators and counsel, researchers, and others who might have to deal with allegations of research misconduct. Registrants will receive a binder including background materials, legal cases, agency, and institutional policies, a select bibliography, and other resources.

The practicum will be held June 4-5 in St. Charles, Illinois. Registration is limited.

More information can be found at <<http://www.aaas.org/spp/dspp/sfrl/projects/practica.htm>> or by contacting Rachel Gray, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20005, Phone: (202) 326-7016 Fax: (202) 289-4950, e-mail: rgray@aaas.org.

The Role and Activities of Scientific Societies in Promoting Research Integrity

April 10-11

Join your colleagues for a conference sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the U.S. Office of Research Integrity on April 10-11 in Washington, DC, on "The Role and Activities of Scientific Societies in Promoting Research

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TWO CERTIFICATE PROGRAM WORKSHOPS REMAIN



Dates and Regions

Friday, March 24 Northeastern Region--Washington, DC area

Tuesday, April 25 Midwestern Region--Chicago

Tuition

Earlybird Members:	\$200	Nonmembers:	\$300
Regular Members:	\$250	Nonmembers:	\$350

Further details may be obtained by contacting Nancy Gaffney <ngaffney@cgs.nche.edu> or Wayne Patterson <wpatterson@cgs.nche.edu>.

Registration may be done online on the CGS web site at <<http://www.cgsnet.org/Meetings>>.

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