

THE COMPASS

A Newsletter Promoting Research
and its Responsible Conduct

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Division of
Research Affairs
San Diego State
University

Research Ethics

Policy Update: NSF Requires Training in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Institutions that receive NSF funding must now provide training for students in responsible and ethical research practices as per the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) act. [Read more about this legislation](#). The NIH implemented a similar requirement several years ago for trainees supported by NRSA and research training grants (T32 and T34).

Graduate & Research Affairs provides RCR training through a 1-unit Seminar in Research Ethics course (INT-S 690). Additional research ethics educational opportunities include:

Research Ethics Seminar Series

The [RESS](#) is designed for faculty and students to discuss ethical issues and challenges in the conduct of research and scholarship. The format this year is a panel-in-residence that rotates each semester. This semester, the panel addresses issues of responsible approaches to the design, implementation and dissemination of research.

Research Ethics Journal Club

The [Research Ethics Journal Club](#) is a joint effort of SDSU, UCSD and USD to promote discussion of literature relevant to research ethics. Topics focus on ethical dimensions associated with the practice of research. The REJC meets off-campus on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9-10:30 a.m.

Events and News



SDSU is pleased to announce the first annual [Student Research Symposium \(SRS\)](#) and cordially invites all SDSU students to participate in this event. The SRS showcases student research, scholarship and creative activity through oral and poster presentations. SRS awardees may also compete in the 2008 CSU Student Research Competition at CSU East Bay. [Online registration](#) opens on December 1, 2007. The SRS is a two-day event scheduled for February 29 - March 1, 2008 in Aztec Center. Please encourage your students to participate and consider serving as an SRS judge.

Call for Applications - Center for Ethics in Science and Technology

[The Ethics Center](#) is an independent organization whose work is facilitated through collaboration with UCSD, USD and SDSU. Its mission is to promote understanding of ethical implications of scientific and technological advances. Toward this end, SDSU is accepting applications for Faculty Fellowships that include a \$2,500 stipend. Fellows will write a grant application to obtain external funding with a focus on research ethics that complement the Ethics Center's objectives. Interdisciplinary collaborative proposals are encouraged.

Albert W. Johnson University Research Lectureship

The University Grants and Lectureship Committee has recommended Mark A. Sussman be named this year's AWJ recipient. This recognition is awarded for outstanding achievement in research and scholarship. Dr. Sussman, Professor of Biology, will deliver the lecture on March 19, 2008. [Visit the AWJ website for updates about this upcoming event](#).

Research Updates

Human Research Protections

An updated version of the [web-based training](#) on ethical principles and practices in human subjects research is now online. This training is required for faculty, students and key personnel who involve human subjects in their research and meets NIH and SDSU human research training requirements. Students and/or faculty who plan to submit a protocol for review by the SDSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) are asked to complete this tutorial prior to developing the IRB protocol. Verification of completion of the tutorial is required for all, including those who have not completed the SDSU training since 2004.

Intellectual Property

The University Copyright and Patent Committee reviews copyright and patent disclosure and recommends assignment of ownership rights and division of royalties. Faculty may receive advice and assistance in the commercialization of their inventions, copyrights and other scholarly work through the [Technology Transfer Office](#).

Biosafety Awareness

Did you know research or teaching projects that involve handling of biohazardous materials (e.g., blood, urine, saliva, etc.) must have approval of the Institutional Biosafety Committee? To access the IBC review materials, relevant policies and guidelines, [visit the IBC website](#).

University Grants Program

The [UGP](#) supports faculty scholarly research and creative activities with up to \$10,000 in funding for an 18-month period. Proposals for the 2008 funding cycle are under review and awards will be announced in mid-December 2007.