Spring 2011 Workshops from the Office for Research Protections

The Office for Research Protections offers two Brownbag Series and a Survival Skills and Ethics Series, covering topics within responsible conduct of research and human participants in research. Many graduate programs allow students to fulfill up to two hours of SARI participation requirements through workshops such as:

**SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH ETHICS BROWNBAG SERIES**

- **January 26, 12-1 p.m., 102 Kern Graduate Building**
  - Public Scholarship and Documentary Film

- **February 3, 12-1 p.m., Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson Bldg)**
  - International Research + Entrepreneurship = Chaos in the Ivory Tower?

- **March 2, 12-1 p.m., Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson Bldg)**
  - The Researcher as Activist: Organ Trafficking in Egypt

- **April 20, 12-1 p.m., Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson Bldg)**
  - Public Sociology, Public Scholarship, and Community Engagement

**IRB 101 BROWNBAG SERIES**

- **January 13, 12-1 p.m., 102 Kern Graduate Building**
  - Best Practices in Survey Research

- **February 10, 12-1 p.m., 102 Kern Graduate Building**
  - Historical Perspective and the Regulations

- **February 17, 12-1 p.m., 102 Kern Graduate Building**
  - Research with Children

- **February 24, 12-1 p.m., 102 Kern Graduate Building**
  - Human Participant Research Q & A

Bring your lunch—we provide drinks and cookies! Because Brownbag workshops are designed to be informal and interactive, attendance is limited to about 40 participants. There is no pre-registration. Please come early to ensure your seat!

**SURVIVAL SKILLS AND ETHICS SERIES**

- **February 17, 2:30-4 p.m., Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson Bldg)**
  - Mythbusters: Fact or Fiction in Research Ethics

- **March 30, 12-1 p.m., Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson Bldg)**
  - Dirty Deeds (Done Dirt Cheap): Case Studies in Research Ethics

Pre-registration for the Survival Skills and Ethics Series workshops is required. Please visit [research.psu.edu/training](http://research.psu.edu/training) for more information. These two Survival Skills workshops offer SARI credit; however, others in this series (not listed here) are for professional development only.
Since the SARI program was implemented in the fall semester of 2009, many programs have had changes in personnel who administer graduate programs. We don’t want SARI program management to be the proverbial last straw for these hard-working individuals, and yet it is one of the many aspects of graduate training that needs to be coordinated and tracked. We have therefore prepared this handy guide for new personnel, which will also be a useful refresher for those who are already helping their students navigate the SARI requirements.

**A SARI PRIMER**

*For graduate program administrators*

- **Please refer to the SARI Resource Portal** ([www.research.psu.edu/training/sari](http://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari)) for information, teaching resources, useful links and forms. **Contact** [sari@psu.edu](mailto:sari@psu.edu) with any questions.

- **Every Penn State graduate student** who matriculated in the fall of 2009 or later must complete the SARI program requirements before graduation.

- **Each graduate program has a unique SARI plan.** Graduate program administrators can view their program’s plan on ANGEL ([https://cms.psu.edu](https://cms.psu.edu)). New administrators should contact [sari@psu.edu](mailto:sari@psu.edu) for access.

  - Program plans should be reviewed and updated regularly (with ORP approval). Just send an email to inquire about plan changes or updates.

  - Graduate program administrators must submit records of all student SARI activities for fall and spring semesters by June 30 of each year, using the SARI tracking form and dropbox found on ANGEL.

- **In general, the SARI program has two parts:** online training through CITI ([www.citi.org](http://www.citi.org)), and five hours of discipline-specific, discussion-based training (individual program requirements may vary).

  - CITI offers a variety of course modules; any of these are acceptable for SARI credit. Programs may require that students take a particular CITI course, or may let students choose.

  - Most CITI courses do NOT meet Penn State’s IRB requirement for human subjects training, although the CITI human subjects course does meet SARI requirements. Questions about IRB training can be directed to [ORProtections@psu.edu](mailto:ORProtections@psu.edu).

  - Students should submit CITI course completion reports to their graduate program administrators for record-keeping.

- **ORP offers a variety of workshops** and training to support the SARI program. Details can be found on the SARI Resource Portal.

  - SARI program plans specify the number of hours of out-of-program training that students can count towards their SARI requirements. While students are welcome to attend any and all ORP workshops, **students may NOT count more than two hours** of ORP-sponsored training towards their SARI requirement.

  - **Brownbag workshops** ([Scholarship and Research Ethics Series and IRB 101 Series](http://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari/about-sari)) are informal, interactive one-hour meetings held at noon. These popular workshops fill up quickly, so participants should plan to arrive early to get a seat.

  - **Survival Skills and Ethics Series workshops** focus on RCR and career issues. Pre-registration is required for these workshops. Not all of these workshops count for SARI participation, so read the announcements carefully.

  - **SARI workshops** presented by ORP staff are available on request (see the spring 2010 SARI newsletter for a list: [http://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari/about-sari](http://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari/about-sari)); we are also happy to present custom workshops to groups of 12 or more.
SCIENTISTS MAKE DISCOVERY
PUBLIC DOUBTFUL

By Brad Woods
Office for Research Protections News Service

Has the scientific landscape undergone a change significant enough to justify that scientists reevaluate the way they relate their findings to the public? Earlier discrepancies between scientific findings and news reports, such as a purported causal link between cell phone usage and cancer, have caused alarm. Currently, an increasingly skeptical public, fueled often by inaccurate media reports, has grown distrustful of climate change science.1

This and other changes in the public arena necessitate scientists become more aware of how their research and scholarship impacts the public. In an effort to illustrate how some researchers are advancing science in the public discourse, ORP has several upcoming workshops that address these and similar issues. Please visit ORP’s Research Workshops and Training Events site for times and locations (http://www.research.psu.edu/training/events/schedule).

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SARI workshops available

Make it easier for your students to attend an ORP sponsored workshop— schedule one taught by the ORP’s ethics educator for your college, department or program. Graduate programs that are interested in a one-hour interactive presentation on one of the topics below should contact Brad (brw150@psu.edu) to schedule a workshop. Presentations can be customized, and we will consider additional topic suggestions. Available workshops include:

- Science and Society: Dissemination of Research Findings
- Mentorship and Career Training: Your Responsibilities/Their Responsibilities
- Navigating Research-Ethics Dilemmas: Responsibilities and Tactics for Graduate Students
- Research Ethics and Social Science
- Plagiarism, Authorship, and Publication: Strategies for Graduate Students

Please note that availability of these workshops is limited, so schedule early! A minimum of 12 students is required (feel free to combine programs), and workshops will be limited to one per program per year.

FAQs

We are frequently asked the same questions. Let us answer them for you!

Administrator Q: When do I turn in my SARI program tracking form? Did I miss a deadline?!  
SARI program tracking forms are due once each year, by June 30th. They should contain information on all student participation for the academic year 2010-2011. Download your program’s tracking form from the ANGEL site; you’ll find both blank forms and your previously-submitted data there. We’ll send out a reminder at the end of the spring semester with instructions for completing and uploading the form.

Student Q: I attended an ORP workshop— when will I get my participation certificate?  
It takes time to get SARI certificates out to graduate students after workshops. We sent hundreds during the fall semester. Just be patient, as you’ll receive them via email before the end of the semester.

Investigator Q: Can you check on my IRB CITI training?  
Individuals who have completed the CITI course in order to meet IRB requirements for human participants research will need to contact the IRB staff with questions. While both the SARI and IRB programs utilize CITI, the requirements differ. ORP’s human research protections program coordinators can be reached at ORProtections@psu.edu.

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SARI Program Reminder:  
Update your SARI plan!  
The SARI program is intended to be dynamic and timely, and we expect SARI plans to adapt to changing RCR issues, training requirements, and program resources. Please review your program’s plan regularly to keep it current! It’s easy to update your SARI plan, just contact us!