

PST 8000: Responsible Conduct of Research
Summer Semester 2009

Instructor:

Dr. Jason Borenstein
Director, Graduate Research Ethics Programs

Meeting days: May 11th and May 12th **Meeting location:** DM Smith 104

Course Background: The primary aim of this course is to identify and discuss ethical challenges that graduate students confront relating to their research. Topics addressed within the course include those recognized by NIH, NSF, and the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) as crucial to being a responsible researcher.

Format: The course will primarily consist of a series of short lectures introducing students to key background concepts and issues in the realm of research ethics. Discussions involving ethics case studies will be included.

Required Readings: A list of assigned articles and case studies will be sent electronically to each student prior to the beginning of the course. Presentation slides will be available on T-square.

Students Taking the Course for Credit: The course is for one credit and may be taken on a pass/fail basis only. To receive a passing grade for the course, each student will be required to attend the entire course and to participate on a consistent basis. Each student will also be responsible for writing a short paper (approximately 1-2 pages) that identifies the key ethical issues in a research ethics case study of his/her own choice. Within the paper, a suggested solution to the situation described in the case must be articulated. A citation for the selected case must be included in the paper. At a minimum, the title of the case, publication date, and if relevant, a web address should be listed in an endnote or a works cited. Quotations or extensive paraphrasing from the case are not permitted. The paper must be sent electronically to the instructor no later than by noon on May 18th.

Students Auditing the Course: In order to audit the course successfully and earn a "V", each student will be required to attend the entire course and to participate on a consistent basis. Auditing students who do not successfully fulfill these requirements will earn a "W".

Academic Integrity: Each student in the course is expected to uphold Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code. This requires of students that they familiarize themselves with the rights and responsibilities contained within the policy. If you have any questions or concerns about the Academic Honor Code, please consult with the instructor or refer to <http://www.honor.gatech.edu>

* The syllabus provides a general framework for the course; on rare occasions, changes may become necessary.

** If you have any learning disabilities, contact the ADAPTS office at (404) 894-2564, refer to <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

*** If you have any personal or academic difficulties, contact the Counseling Center at (404) 894-2575, refer to <http://www.counseling.gatech.edu>, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

Course Schedule and Topics:

Day 1 (May 11th)

- 8:30AM to 9:50 AM: Introduction, Ethical Concepts, and Professionalism
 - 1) In-class slides only

- 10:00AM to 10:50AM: Data Management
 - 1) Selection of data: http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=4917&page=5
- 2) Jessica Banks case: <http://poynter.indiana.edu/mr/mr-banks.pdf>

- 11:00AM to 12:00PM: “Dual Use” Technology
 - 1) Guest Presentation

- 1:00PM to 1:55PM: Collaborative Research and Mentoring
 - 1) Communism of science: <http://www.onlineethics.org/cms/16285.aspx>
- 2) Laborer: <http://www.onlineethics.org/cms/16333.aspx>

- 2:00PM to 3:15PM: Authorship and Publication
 - 1) Sherry’s secret: <http://www.onlineethics.org/cms/5778.aspx>
 - 2) Left in the dark: <http://www.onlineethics.org/cms/16342.aspx>
- 3) Merck case: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/16/business/16vioxx.html>

- 3:25PM to 4:25PM: Human Subjects Research and IRB
 - 1) In-class slides only

Day 2 (May 12th)

- 9:00AM to 10:00AM: Peer Review
 - 1) Guest Presentation

- 10:10AM to 10:55AM: Research Misconduct
 - 1) Baltimore case: <http://www.nytimes.com/books/98/09/20/reviews/980920.20portert.html>
 - 2) Ohio U: <http://www.ohio.edu/outlook/media/BMIR.cfm>
 - 3) Hwang case:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/14/AR2006011400935.html>

- 11:00AM to 11:55AM: Conflicts of Interest and Commitment
 - 1) The Gelsinger case:
<http://blog.bioethics.net/2008/01/a-comment-from-paul-gelsinger-on-gene-therapy-and/>

- 1:00PM to 1:45PM: Animal Subjects Research and IACUC
 - 1) Guest Presentation

- 1:50PM to 2:30PM: Export Control
 - 1) Guest Presentation

- 2:40PM to 3:25PM: Social Responsibilities of Researchers

- 1) Nalgene and BPA: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/18/business/18plastic.html>

- 2) Popcorn butter: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/05/us/05popcorn.html>