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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Twelve institutions awarded funding for research integrity training for postdocs

(Washington, DC) New programs in research integrity will be offered to postdocs at twelve research institutions as a result of new seed grant awards from the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA). The NPA, with support from the federal Office of Research Integrity, has awarded its first round of "Bring RCR Home" seed grants to support programs in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) targeted at postdocs. The twelve awardees will use the funds to mount an array of different types of programming at their home institutions, taking into account the unique needs and career phase of the postdoc. The awards are part of the NPA's "Bring RCR Home" project which aims to foster such programs at postdocs' home institutions through a combination of seed grants, workshops, an online toolkit and resource and technical assistance. The programs will benefit postdocs who often receive little guidance on RCR-related issues as they navigate their unique but critical role in the research enterprise.

The funded programs span an array of venues and approaches ranging from brown bag lunches to monthly seminars to hands-on workshops using role-playing actors. Some programs will expand upon existing graduate training in RCR and introduce complementary postdoc-centered workshops and breakouts, while other will establish new offerings in RCR. Some institutions took a multi-venue approach, building a comprehensive program for postdocs that reinforce small-group training through networking and teaching opportunities. Two of the twelve awardees are postdoc associations, the Massachusetts General Hospital Postdoctoral Association (MPGA) and the Stanford University Postdoctoral Scholars Organization (SUPD). They each propose to provide their postdocs with new professional development opportunities on topics related to RCR, with MPGA holding brown bag luncheons on communication skills for difficult situations and SUPD offering workshops on building career 'soft skills.'

All programs will provide innovative expansions of the training opportunities for postdocs in these critical areas. Most postdocs receive little guidance on issues relating to responsible conduct of research despite being faced with such issues daily as part of everyday research activities. Postdocs also face additional challenges that are unique to their position in the research enterprise, such as the implications of short-term appointments on data and project ownership

For descriptions of all the funded projects, visit the NPA's Bring RCR Home seed grant webpage at: http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/RCR_SeedGrants/.

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Seed Grant Awardees:

- Brown University (PI: Nancy Thompson, Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Division of Biology and Medicine);
- Howard University (PI: William Eckberg, Associate Dean, Office of Educational and Research Affairs);
- Indiana University, Bloomington (PI: Maxine Watson, Associate Dean, The University Graduate School);
- Massachusetts General Hospital Postdoctoral Association (PI: Ayguen Sahin, Postdoctoral Fellow and Board Member, MGPA);
- Medical University of South Carolina (PI: Edward Krug, Assistant Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs, College of Graduate Studies);
- Stanford University Postdoctoral Scholars Organization (PI: Alison McGuigan, Postdoctoral Fellow and Co-Chair, SUPD);
- The Pennsylvania State University (PI: Mark Wardell, Associate Dean and Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, The Graduate School);
- The University of Iowa (PI: John Widness, Professor of Pediatrics and Director, Neonatology Fellowship Program);
- The University of Kansas (PI: John Augusto, Research Training Coordinator, Office for Research and Graduate Studies);
- University of Pennsylvania (PI: Connie Ulrich, Assistant Professor of Bioethics and Nursing);
- University of Pittsburgh (PI: Steven Wendell, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Career Development); and
- University of Washington (PI: Thomas Gething, Associate Dean and Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs)

For more information about the NPA Postdoc Leadership Mentoring Project, please visit the NPA website.

The mission of the National Postdoctoral Association is to advance the U.S. research enterprise by maximizing the effectiveness of the research community and enhancing the quality of the postdoctoral experience for all participants.

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