

Professional Development

for Postdocs (PDPS) and Graduate Students (PDGS)

The Program

Our mission: making your graduate and postdoc years here at UCSB a fruitful and fulfilling experience by providing you with learning opportunities designed to enhance your proficiency in personal and professional skills critical for a success here and in your future careers.

→ Learn from the experts what it takes to become a science professional: write, present, teach with style!

→ Get professional help in preparing for your job interviews or for writing your first grant/fellowship application.

→ Connect with your peers, campus faculty, and staff and don't burn out!

Format

Classes will be offered either as a one-time event or as a series of workshops (mini-course), depending on the topic (e.g., writing for scientists is a mini-course; poster presentations is a one-time event).

Even in the case of mini-courses, workshops have been designed in a modular format, so that prior workshop attendance is not a prerequisite for any event.

Workshops will be offered on a bi-weekly schedule; they will be approximately 2 hours in duration and will be led by professionals in the field or faculty from various STEM departments.

Upcoming classes will be advertised by email and through our website. We will request RSVPs to ensure availability of adequate classroom space.

Workshop descriptions and announcements will specify a target audience (I-II yr graduates, III yr and higher graduates, postdocs). **However, you are always welcome to join and they will be open to everybody.**

The Workshops

The program covers four broad categories of topics:

1) **Basic skills**

- Writing for scientists
- Stress and time management
- Basic statistical tools for the scientist
- Reading and reviewing a scientific paper

2) **Communication skills**

- Public speaking
- Poster presentations
- Networking in a professional setting

3) **Job skills**

- Interviewing for academia and industry
- Visa options for working in the US
- Strategies in pursuing postdoc appointments
- Working in industry with an advanced degree

4) **Advanced skills**

- Teaching
- Grant writing
- Human resource management

Special Events

Kick-off event

with Jorge Cham, author of PhD Comics, September 24th, 4pm, Corwin Pavilion.

Seminar series

about alternative careers in science and engineering (e.g. NASA, science writing for the public). Two events per quarter.

Movie night

"Naturally Obsessed", a documentary that captures the lives of several graduate students over the course of their graduate studies.

Networking

luncheon with faculty.

Please see our website for a complete list of collaborating partners:

<http://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/graduate/professional-development>

<http://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/postdoc/professional-development>

Spring 2011 Calendar

Workshop Descriptions

Writing for scientists-- “Easy reading is damn hard writing.” - Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Session B – Wed, March 30th, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601-Target audience: All

Craig Cotich (Writing Program) – Back by popular demand from Fall quarter

Coordination and Subordination: how to use the two most common methods of sentence combining. Coordinating and subordinating are two of the best ways to suggest relationships between ideas and to add sentence variety, and this lesson highlights how to achieve this when revising.

Relative Clauses: how to subordinate ideas to one another by using relative clauses. Not only good for streamlining prose, this method is also good for achieving coherence in passages.

Verbals: introduces the three verbals: participles, gerunds, and infinitives. Helping to produce more active and light prose, verbals are also used to balance sentences and to tell a story by layering.

Signup at the sessions to get personalized help from Doug Bradley (Writing Program Faculty) on your writing assignments/papers.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

The art of presenting posters – Wed, April 6th, 3-5pm, Elings 1601-bTarget audience: All

Scott Shell (Chemical Engineering) --Led by Prof. Scott Shell (Chemical Engineering), this workshop will teach how to structure the presentation of research results into a poster, to communicate the findings effectively. A hands-on session, participants will be encouraged to bring a copy of their poster if they want in-class feedback on it, or they can learn about the dos and don'ts from analyzing our examples.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Writing for multiple audiences --- Wed, April 13th, 3:30-5pm, Elings Hall 1601- Target audience: All

Karen Lunsford (Writing Program) - Led by Prof. Karen Lunsford (Writing Program) in this workshop, we will discuss techniques for representing a single scientific project to multiple audiences -- readers of different journals, the general public, and your professional network.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Stress management workshop --Thurs, April 21st, 1:15-2:15pm, Elings Hall 1601- Target audience: All

Graduate Stress Peers (Counseling Services) --Led by the Graduate Stress Peers, the goal of this workshop is to help students identify the sources of their stress, learn methods to cope with daily stressors, and develop strategies to effectively manage stress on a long-term basis.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Transitioning to a postdoc position -- Wed, April 27th, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601- Target audience: >III year grad students, *K. Foltz (MCDB), D. Marolf (Phys), J. Read de Alaniz (Chem), M. Valentine (ME)* --

This faculty panel will discuss some of the pros and cons of this potential next step after your PhD: how to get it, what to expect, and how to strategize about making it a successful career step.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Spring 2011 Calendar

Workshop Descriptions

The industry job search -- Wed, May 4th, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601 Target audience: >III year grad students & postdocs, *Molly Steen (Career Services) and Industry Panel*
Molly Steen (Career Services) will begin the workshop with some basic job search etiquette and tips for interviewing for industry positions. A panel of experts will follow discussing the ins and outs of a job search in industry. Panelists will include Leslie Edwards (Director of Corporate Business Development) and industry professionals from Channel Technologies Inc. and Raytheon.
RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Ethics of research seminar series (organized by the Office of Research) -- Target audience: All "The least deviation from the truth is multiplied later." - /Aristotle (384-322 BCE) Greek philosopher./

What does this quote have to do with science and scientists? and, more in general, why should we concern ourselves with ethics: didn't we all learn about right and wrong long time ago? Aren't scientists just working for the triumph of truth and the benefit of humanity? The answer seems to be "not all" and "not always": see the recent debunking on the study linking vaccination to autism http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2011/01/05/health/AP-EU-MED-Autism-Fraud.html?_r=1&hpw, or the infamous case of Dr. Schoen at the Bell Labs http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sch%C3%B6n_scandal.

Besides these clamorous fraud cases, there are choices that we face every day as scientists and that are not always clear-cut.

Come meet and discuss these issues in a series of thought inspiring talks, organized by the Office of Research and spurred by NSF's requirement on mandatory training on the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rcr.jsp>.

Dennis Clegg (Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology) -- Mon, May 9th, 4-6PM, ESB 1001
Stem cell research involves some important ethical and legal considerations, especially the use of human embryonic stem cells. Yet there is a great deal of misinformation about where these cells come from and how they might be utilized to treat untreatable diseases and injuries. For instance, a new kind of pluripotent stem cell can now be generated from skin biopsies, and multiple types of adult stem cells are also being investigated. We will briefly present how embryonic stem cells are derived, how induced pluripotent stem cells are made, and summarize ongoing research in this area. Following this introduction, we will discuss ethical and legal issues related to stem cell research and somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Collaborative writing -- Target audience: >III year grad students & postdocs
Karen Lunsford (Writing Program) -- Wed, May 11th, 3:30-5pm, Elings Hall 1601
Led by Karen Lunsford (Writing Program), this workshop will present techniques for collaborating effectively with co-authors, including techniques for managing the workload and for creating a smoothly written text.
RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Spring 2011 Calendar

Workshop Descriptions

Goal-Setting Strategies for Scientific and Career Success – Target audience: All
Cynthia Furhmann (UCSF Office of Career & Professional Development), Fri., May 20th, 2-4pm, Elings 1601

Do you ever promise yourself that you'll finish that paper, or improve your presentation skills, then don't quite get around to it? Do you have trouble setting goals... and sticking to them? Survey data has shown that trainees in the biomedical sciences who create and follow a written plan are more likely to reach their research and career goals. In this hands-on workshop we'll get you started creating your own annual Individual Development Plan (IDP) for completing projects and developing professional skills that you'll need for success. Throughout this process, you will learn principles for how to set achievable goals, and strategies for ensuring that you'll follow through.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Mindful conflict resolution -- Target audience: All, Wed, May 25th, 1-2:30pm, Elings Hall 1605
Led by Dr. Turi Honegger (Counseling Services), this workshop will highlight strategies to strengthen professional and personal relationships and offer practical tools to better handle situations of conflict.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Special Events – Target audience: All

Teaching is not learning -- Mon, April 18th, 2-3:30pm, Corwin Pavilion Target audience: All
Jean-luc Doumont (*Principiae*) --Many of us who teach students often feel they have done their job when they have “covered all material”: as lecturers, when they have said everything once; as TAs, when they have provided a solution to all the assigned exercises. But have students learned? In fact, have we done anything that a good book or video sequence could not have done in our place? Observing that “teaching is not learning”, the lecture will show the limitations of traditional approaches, establish the potential value added by an instructor, and provide strategies that will help students learn.

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Movie and Lunch -- Naturally Obsessed: the making of a scientist, 60min film by Richard and Carole Rifkind -- Wed., June 8th, 12-1pm, Elings 1601

"Naturally Obsessed: The making of a scientist" is a 60min documentary by Richard Rifkin (Sloan-Kettering Institute Chairman Emeritus) and Carole Rifkin (2009) -- "Mixing humor with heartbreak, the film tells a profoundly real yet intensely dramatic story about life in a molecular biology lab." See more on the movie at: <http://naturallyobsessed.com/>

RSVP : <https://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/forms/PDS/Registration.php>

Please check out our website for more information on events, workshop content and schedule and for a complete list of program collaborators:

<http://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/graduate/professional-development>
<http://csep.cnsi.ucsb.edu/postdoc/professional-development>