

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>

Winter 2011 Calendar

Workshop Descriptions

Grant writing -- Target audience: >III year grad students & postdocs

A three session series, these workshops will combine expertise from multiple individuals on campus and address the different aspects of grant writing.

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

Session B -- Wed, Jan. 5th, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601

Led by Prof. Karen Lunsford (Writing Program), this interactive workshop will discuss rhetorical strategies for making your project description both concise and persuasive. Together, we will analyze examples of successful proposals written by UCSB faculty.

Session C -- Wed, Jan. 12th, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601

The third and final session in our grant writing series, this session will discuss with a panel of faculty (Francesco Bullo (Mechanical Engineering), Aaron Ettenburg (Psychology), Christopher Kruegel (Computer Science)) who have experience with different grant agencies what these agencies look for in successful proposals and general advice they have collected from their own experience with these agencies.

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>.

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

Session A -- Wed, Jan. 19th, 4:00-6:00pm, Chem 1171

Speaker: Ram Seshadri

In this meta-seminar, I will describe what is generally discussed in an ethics seminar, and more specifically, how seminars and classes on research ethics are run, based on the experience of what we have been doing in the ConvEne IGERT program. I will especially emphasize resources for the learning/discussions of ethics, as collated by professional bodies and academic centers for ethics. Seminars such as this one will soon be mandated by the NSF for researchers at all levels receiving NSF support. We will end with some discussion of sample cases that bring out aspects of moral reasoning. The seminar will be strongly influenced by the following resource, made available by the Poynter Center for Bioethics at Indiana University: <http://poynter.indiana.edu/mr/mr.pdf>

Winter 2011 Calendar

Workshop Descriptions

Session B – Mon, March 7th, 4:00-6:00PM, Girvetz 1004

Speaker: Herbert Kroemer

In early 2002, Bell Labs physicist Hendrick Schoen was considered a rising star in the field of molecular electronics. A little older than 30, Schoen had already authored 90 publications and received a series of prestigious awards. In April 2002, he was being considered for the directorship of the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research in Stuttgart. In September 2002, he was fired by the Bell Labs and his most prominent papers were withdrawn from publication. What happened? In this talk, Prof. Kroemer will tell us about his role in the investigation on scientific misconduct and discuss issues and repercussions of unethical conduct in research.

Networking/Mingling -- Wed, Jan. 26th, 3-4:30pm, ESB 1001 -- Target audience: >III year grad students & postdocs

Professional networking : As important as any lab technique or research strategy. Much happens in and around the margins of a professional conference: careers launched, collaborations initiated, professional friendships forged. Attend this workshop to gain practical advice and techniques for mingling, networking, and maximizing your conference experience. Seasoned networkers Susan Goodale (Programs Director, UCSB Alumni Association) and Don Lubach (Acting Assistant Dean, Office of Student Life) will be joined by a panel of campus faculty to provide a comfortable, entertaining, and valuable afternoon of networking and mingling know how.

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

Scientific paper review – Target audience: I-II year grad students

Tues, Feb. 1st, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1605

What do you do when you are asked to review a manuscript for a journal? And how can this benefit your own writing? Led by Professors Kevin Plaxco (Chemistry) and Brad Chmelka (Chemical Engineering), this workshop will provide basic techniques and things to keep in mind when reviewing a manuscript for a journal along with tips on how to efficiently and critically read and write a scientific paper.

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

Statistical tools -- Target audience: All

This series is intended for students that have not taken a statistics course, who need a refresher, or who want to learn to use statistical software. It is designed as an introduction to basic statistical methods frequently used among scientists and engineers. Led by Lubi Lenaburg (CSEP), students will learn the most common statistical methods, including confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, regression, and error propagation. Students will also have the opportunity between workshops, on their own time, to use common software such as Matlab, Mathematica, and R to carry out statistical analysis.

Session A -- Wed, Feb. 2nd, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601

Session B -- Wed, Feb. 16th, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1605

Session C -- Wed, March 2nd, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601

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

Winter 2011 Calendar

Workshop Descriptions

Writing CV and Cover Letters -- Target audience: >III year grad students & postdocs

Wed, Feb. 9th, 3-5pm, Elings Hall 1601

At this workshop, Prof. Karen Lunsford will cover techniques for writing effective CVs and cover letters for job applications for academia and industry.

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

Visa options (organized by OISS) – Target audience: >III year grad students & postdocs

Wed, Feb. 23rd, 3:00-5:00pm, Elings 1601

Led by Simran Singh (OISS), this workshop will provide students and postdocs help navigating the complex maze of immigration regulations and understand how they can legally work in the US. At the close of the workshop, immigration attorneys will be available to answer additional questions.

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

Writing for scientists: “Easy reading is damn hard writing.” - Nathaniel Hawthorne. From the series of four workshops led by Craig Cotich (Writing Program Faculty) Fall quarter. Signup at the session to get personalized help from Doug Bradley (Writing Program Faculty) on your writing assignments/papers.

Session A — Target audience: all

Mon, Feb. 28th, 3:00-5:00pm, Elings Hall 1601

Style and Clarity: how to create direct, streamlined writing, including strategies for reducing wordiness and constructing clear sentences.

Style and Emphasis: how to place elements of importance in locations of emphasis within the sentence. This is geared toward technical and scientific writing, as it illustrates how to write about complex ideas with clarity and grace.

Style and Coherence: strategies for creating more coherent sentences and paragraphs. By addressing methods to help readers understand messages, this lesson moves from the sentence to the paragraph.

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

Presentation skills – Target audience: All

Wed, March 9th, 3:00-5:00pm, Elings 1601

This seminar led by Prof. Scott Shell (Chemical Engineering) will give concrete tips to improve your presentation skills and reduce fears of speaking in public.

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

Winter 2011 Calendar

Workshop Descriptions

Alternative Careers in Science and Engineering Series – Target audience: all

Mark Fonda, Deputy Division Chief at Space Science and Astrobiology Division, NASA Ames

Thursday, January 27th, 12:30PM, Elings Hall 1605, Pizza Lunch provided

Mark Fonda and Dr. Phil Luna will discuss their career paths and current positions at NASA Ames.

Special Events – Target audience: I-II year grad students

Lunch with Faculty, Thursday, February 24th, First floor Elings Lobby

Designed for new students, this luncheon will be an opportunity for you to get to know faculty inside and outside of your home department as well as practice the art of networking.

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>