Responsible Conduct of Research

Format: I have pursued training in the responsible conduct of research by taking a course entitled Research Design in Gerontology (GRN 650) and completing online training modules. Future training will involve attending a conference on guardianship and elder abuse as well as individual consultation with Dr. Pamela Teaster, a member of the University of Kentucky (UK) Program for Bioethics Hospital Ethics Committee, in addition to regular consultation with my co-sponsors, Drs. Rowles and Schoenberg.

Subject Matter: The ethics component of GRN 650 covered the following topics on the ethical obligations of being a scientist and ethical dilemmas in the conduct and publication of research:
- Basic Ethical Principles
- Ethical Issues and Research Participants
  - The Ethics of Intervention
  - Informed Consent (issues of cognitive impairment, the use of proxies)
- Protecting the Innocent
- Ethical Guidelines and Institutional Review Boards
- On Being a Scientist: Responsible Conduct of Research
- Intellectual and Personal Integrity
- Publication and Use of Findings
- Authorship

GRN 650 involved lectures, small group discussions, and several written assignments, including both a qualitative and a quantitative grant proposal.

In addition, I have completed online Human Subjects Protection Research courses through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) in the following subjects:
- Biomedical Research (last completed 01/2012)
- Social Behavioral Research (last completed 04/2013)

Finally, I will attend a two-day Guardianship and Elder Abuse Conference in 2013, of which Dr. Teaster is a central organizer.

Faculty Participation: GRN 650 was led by Dr. Joy Jacobs-Lawson, Assistant Professor of Gerontology. Dr. Teaster, who will provide me with individual consultations and training, has taken an intensive ethics course at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University, published a book on surrogate decision-making, and taught graduate courses in ethics for more than a decade. Finally, through conversations with my faculty sponsors, Drs. Rowles and Schoenberg, on a weekly/bi-weekly basis I will benefit from the ethical considerations my sponsors have taken into account throughout their decades of research with older adults.

Duration of Instruction: GRN 650 was a 3-credit, semester-long course. Mentorship and consultations with Drs. Teaster, Rowles, and Schoenberg will continue throughout the duration of the fellowship award.

Frequency of Instruction: I completed GRN 650 in May 2012. Meetings with Dr. Teaster will be held at least every quarter (i.e., every 3 months) or more frequently as required by the research project. Meetings with Dr. Rowles will occur weekly, and I will consult with Dr. Schoenberg twice a month.