

# Ethics Forum

## **Selected Scenario: Univ. of Pittsburgh Physics & Astronomy Personal Relationships (in the workplace)**

William and Mary are co-leaders in a research group of five. They spend long hours together in the lab conducting research, often finding themselves together outside the lab discussing their research. Gossip has begun to circulate among the other three members of the research group as to the extent of their relationship. William feels uncomfortable with the direction he believes the relationship may be heading but does not want to take a course of action which would hamper their research. How should William deal with his issue?

### **Case Study (3 pages) - Due July 1, 2002**

1. Cover page should include names of group members, facilitator/mentor, date, and topic of the ethical issue.
2. Prepare a one-page summary of the ethical issue researched. Use the questionnaire as a guideline.
3. Reference page should include relevant journal articles and/or other reliable sources.

### **Ethics Forum Presentations, Tuesday July 2 8:30am 1pm University of Pittsburgh Benedum Engineering Hall**

- There will be four groups in four different breakout sessions. Each group will present one topic and be an audience to three other presentations.
- **Participants:** Duquesne University Undergraduate Research Program, Pittsburgh Tissue & Engineering Initiative, University of Pittsburgh: Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, Physics & Astronomy , Chemistry.
- **Presentation:** Each group will present their topic. Twelve minutes will be allotted for the presentation (strict time keeping). All members should share the presentation responsibility although one group member should take clear "MC" responsibilities for that group. There will be an additional eight minutes for discussion. We encourage each audience member to contribute to the discussion.

## Questions

The following questions can be used as an outline to analyze the ethics topic. You are free to come up with your own questions and outline. As an audience member for the "other 3 presentations", can you answer these questions following each presentation?

1. What are the relevant facts?
2. What are the ethical issues?
3. Who are the primary stakeholders?
4. What are the possible alternatives?
5. What are the ethics of the alternatives?
6. What are the practical constraints?
7. What actions should be taken?
8. Other general questions?