

Integrity in the Education of Researchers

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Basically, this paper is a summary of the graduate school experience. All graduate students are faced with paradox of productivity versus training. Essentially, the PI is inherently concerned with the creation of intellectual property in his lab, while the student is concerned with trying to acquire a fund of knowledge and experimental experience, but at the same time, progress on the project is of utmost importance as stressed by the PI.

Ethical dilemmas of training the graduate student are further complicated by the growing commercialization of biomedical research field. For example, during the process of working on a project a novel organic molecule or method may be developed. Is it ethical to have the student sign a nondisclosure contract even though this may prevent a paper from being written. The patent will help the PI bring more money into the lab, but the student experience is sacrificed in the process.

Furthermore, the end of training and the beginning of a post doc will create problems. How much of the project will the student be able to take with him into his post-doc? Will the decision be influenced by whether or not the student is going into direct competition with his mentor's lab?

The author's conclude that ethical problems are too numerous fro ethics to be taght by the example of the mentor. Ethical standards need to be inculcates systematically.