IGERT 2012 Annual Meeting
Session Descriptions

Session IV a-c: Technical Science Presentations
IGERT PIs and Co-PIs will present short talks on their latest science and engineering research progress. This session includes three themes. Nanoscience and Material Science; Bioinformatics and Bioengineering; and Climate, the Environment, and Ecology. Talks will be followed by Q&A moderated by the session chair. See the meeting proceedings online at www.igert.org/meeting2012 for talk abstracts.

Session IV d: Program Coordinator-Specific Session
This session is devoted to Project Coordinators and will consist of four sessions offered simultaneously and repeated hourly: Annual Report Best Practices; External Evaluations Best Practices; Ending your Program; and Using IGERT.org. The four sessions will focus on sharing and discussing "tricks of the trade" so that everyone benefits from effective practices that different IGERTs have developed.

Session V: Increasing the Diverse Pool of IGERT Trainees
One of IGERT's core goals is to increase the number of scientists and engineers from underrepresented groups. In this session, we will hear introductory remarks from two program directors in the Human Resources Development (EHR HRD) Division and from an IGERT PI and an IGERT program coordinator. They will each discuss best practices in identifying and recruiting students, what works and what doesn't, and what kinds of support students need to succeed. This will be followed by discussions at each table of what next steps each project can take to improve recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups.

Session VI a: Annual Reporting and Managing your IGERT
IGERT staff will go over the importance of the annual reporting process by highlighting the many ways NSF uses the information through press releases, congressional reports, peer-reviewed publications, and articles. The data collection and submission process will also be reviewed. Angela Turner of the Division of Grants and Agreements will go over common grants administration questions relevant to IGERT projects.

Session VI b: Career Development, Part I Plenary with IGERT Alumni
IGERT alumni will discuss how their IGERT experience has shaped their career path and influenced their competitiveness for post-PhD employment.   They will offer suggestions to Trainees on honing transferrable professional skills, communicating the benefits of interdisciplinary training to potential employers, and securing a job that utilizes an interdisciplinary approach.

Session VII a: Innovation Session
The purpose of this panel is to discuss ways in which IGERTs can foster innovation culture among its trainees and surrounding ecosystem, namely, the institution. Given the explicit goals of IGERT to incorporate innovation skills training, the panelists will discuss how they were able to successfully bring about innovation outcomes in their projects, and offer insights from their experience. The panel will be moderated by Ram Ramasubramanian and will consist of a representative from the I-CORPS program, a PI and student with an I-CORPS award, an innovation fellow from the Office of Naval Research, and a Senior University Administrator discussing institutional culture changes to foster innovation. We will also be seeking feedback from the floor on the new innovation thrust and how existing IGERTs can participate (e.g. through I-CORPS).

Session VII b: World Cafe: How We Do What We Do Best (Program Coordinator Specific Session)
 The World Café session will be a structured discussion about two questions: How do you encourage cross-cohort mixing and engage students after IGERT funding?; and How do you interface with the rest of your university?

Session VII c: Communicating Science Workshop for Trainees
This session will begin with a brief review of the context and importance of science communication in today's information-saturated world. Science communication tips and tools will be covered and IGERT trainees will put their communication skills to the test by creating short "elevator speech" videos on their smart phones. Resources with more information and science communication opportunities will be distributed.

 Session XI a-c: Technical Science Presentations
IGERT PIs and Co-PIs will present short talks on their latest science and engineering research progress. This session includes three themes. Energy and Sustainable Development; Cognitive, Social and Economic Science; and Computation, Sensing, and Devices. Talks will be followed by Q&A moderated by the session chair. See the meeting proceedings online at www.igert.org/meeting2012 for talk abstracts.

Session XI d. Program Coordinator-Specific Session
This session is devoted to Project Coordinators and will consist of four sessions offered simultaneously and repeated hourly: Annual Report Best Practices; External Evaluations Best Practices; Ending your Program; and Using IGERT.org. The four sessions will focus on sharing and discussing "tricks of the trade" so that everyone benefits from effective practices that different IGERTs have developed.

Session XII a: Institutionalizing Your IGERT
An IGERT PI, an engineering professor who conducts research on the IGERT program, and an IGERT Program Director will discuss institutionalization of IGERT programs. What changes brought about by IGERT programs at universities have continued, and what factors were instrumental? The IGERT Program Director will also discuss other NSF programs that can sustain elements of IGERT programs.

Session XII b: Career Development Part 2 Post Doctoral Opportunities
Panelists will discuss the pathways from PhD to post-doctoral opportunities. Representatives from the NSF, NIH, and ONR will focus on post-doctoral opportunities for IGERT trainees in the federal government and beyond, and how to best prepare for such opportunities. Science policy fellowship opportunities will also be discussed. The session will conclude with Q&A from the audience.

Session XIII: IGERT of the Future
Led by Division of Graduate Education Director, Jim Lightbourne, we invite the IGERT community to discuss the future of IGERT and graduate education. What IGERT practices work? Where can IGERT improve? What is the future of traineeships in general? If one could re-create IGERT from scratch what should be done differently?