

## Beth A. Fischer, PhD

Assistant Professor of School of Education, University of Pittsburgh  
Visiting Professor at Fudan University (China)  
Director of ASSIST



Beth Fischer is an assistant professor in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh, and the director of Assist, which provides training in responsible conduct and professional development around the world. She also is a Visiting Professor at Fudan University in Shanghai, China and at the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Beth has a diverse background combining formal training in science, communication, and education with 10 years of experience as a research assistant in neuroscience, and a PhD degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Beth has more than 20 years of experience developing and offering educational workshops on responsible conduct and professional skills for individuals ranging in level from undergraduate students to senior faculty and administrators. She has lectured regularly at the University of Pittsburgh, where she was the Director of the internationally recognized “Survival Skills and Ethics Program” for many years. She also has run some 150 invited workshops on the responsible conduct of research and professional development at a number of locations in Asia, Africa, Europe, and in both North and South America.

Beth is responsible for trainer-of-trainers programs funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation that have trained others throughout the United States to teach professional development and ethics. In addition, she and Dr. Zigmond regularly teach annual courses at Fudan University Medical School and the Fourth Military Medical School (Xi'an) and direct an-NIH funded program to train instructors from China in research ethics. Beth has consulted for many agencies and organizations, has contributed to a number of journals and books, and recently co-edited *Perspectives on Research Integrity* (American Society Microbiology Press). In 2011, she was made a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her work related to ethics education.

## Michael J. Zigmond, PhD

Professor of Neurology, Neurobiology, and Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh  
Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai University



Michael Zigmond joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in 1970, and currently holds joint appointments in the Departments of Neurology, Neurobiology, and Psychiatry, as well as Shanghai Medical College of Fudan University, where he is a Distinguished Foreign Professor. His research interests are in the area of neurobiology as it relates to neurological and psychiatric disorders, as well as aging. His particular focus is on the cellular and molecular biology of cell death and on neuroprotection in animal and cellular models of Parkinson's disease and aging with special attention to the role of lifestyle variables such as physical exercise, research that has been supported by federal agencies including the NIH for the past 45 years.

Michael also has a major interest in education. In 1985 he began to provide professional development workshops at the university. In 1995, he and Beth Fischer launched an annual "trainer-of-trainers" conference on professional skills and research ethics. In 1999, he received an award for his work in education from the Association of Neuroscience Departments and Programs, in 2010 he was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 2012 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Neuroscience, given in part for the mentoring of women. He was the senior editor for the first edition of *Fundamental Neuroscience* in 1998 and for a new textbook, the *Neurobiology of Brain Disorders*, which was published in 2014. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Progress in Neurobiology* and has served on several advisory boards for journals and funding agencies, including the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation.

Michael's interests and experience extend to the international level. He has lectured in many countries around the world about his research and in the area of professional development and research ethics. In 1999, he was awarded the Order of the Lion by the Senegalese government for his work in Africa, and is an honorary member of the Indian Academy of Neuroscience. He currently co-directs with Beth an NIH-supported training-of-trainers program on bioethics for faculty from China.