



# Trainee and Fellow Education and Development Highlights

Christopher Kanan (UC San Diego), Linda Salamanca (SDSU), and Andrew Kovacevik (UC San Diego)



## Fifth Annual Inter-Science of Learning Center Student and Post-Doc Conference at TDLC (April 21-23, 2012)

*"Time, Mind, and Education Intertwined"*

CELEST | LIFE | PSLC | SILC | TDLC | VL2

## Annual iSLC Conference

Each year, early career researchers from all six National Science Foundation Science of Learning Centers (SLCs) come together at the iSLC Conference to share their knowledge with each other in their quest to develop a transdisciplinary science of learning.



## What occurred at iSLC 2012

- The iSLC conference brought together students and postdocs from all six SLCs, enabling early career researchers to expand their networks and establish relationships with researchers at other SLCs. SLC alumni also attended, including several scientists that have recently transitioned from being students to professors. Over 100 people attended the conference.
- The event involved two days of scientific discussions, networking activities, poster sessions, oral presentations.
- Sessions encouraged discussion about how to apply the findings to research in other Centers. Thus, sessions enhanced the educational experience of the participants and promoted cross-Center collaborations.
- Researchers were encouraged to expand from their discipline to converse with other researchers in the science of learning, thus developing a shared vocabulary.
- Workshop topics included: Establishing multidisciplinary collaborations; The joys, barriers, and benefits of interdisciplinary work; and Morality in science.

## Training Grantsmanship in TDLC



## Academics Need Training in Grantsmanship

- Winning grants is key to success as an academic scientist, and failing to obtain them can limit career opportunities. In 2010, NSF granted awards to only 23% of applicants, and NIH reached a historic low of 18% in 2011.
- One reason why applicants early in their careers have greater difficulty obtaining grants is that there are few opportunities to gain experience applying for them until after completing graduate and post-doctoral training.
- TDLC has created a small grant program to both alleviate the dearth of training in grantsmanship and to support projects led by TDLC trainees and fellows.
- Each year we allocate \$21,000 to award grants to TDLC's trainees and fellows..
- Individual awards are for up to \$2,500.
- Projects must be consistent with TDLC's mission, with an emphasis on collaborative high-risk high-reward efforts. All grant proposals are rigorously reviewed by 3-5 reviewers, who are also TDLC Fellows. All applicants receive these reviews, allowing them to refine their projects and learn from their mistakes.
- The program has led to more than 20 publications, many conference presentations, an NSF I-Corps award, and it enabled TDLC trainees to get grant writing experience.

## Fellows Lecture Series and Retreat



- Monthly meetings held at UCSD with a research presentation given by a trainee, to other trainees.
- A day-long fellows retreat, including fellows from other Institutions, consisting of research presentations and a workshop led by recent graduates on how to get a job in academia.

## TDLC Summer Fellows Institute (SFI) On The Temporal Dynamics of Learning:

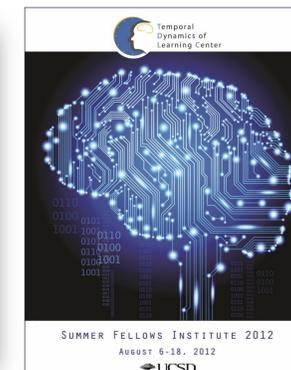
*"Brain, Behavior, and Computational Architectures"*

(August 6 – 18, 2012)

## Summer Fellows Institute (SFI)

The SFI is a two-week, full-time training program that is designed to provide TDLC fellows with an intensive introduction to the broad research agenda of the Center.

The first week consists of instruction and hands-on labs, with a day each devoted to a specific research area from one of the four Center research networks, plus an additional 2 days of training in computational analysis, motion capture, EEG, MEG, and MRI. Evening tutorials on specific tools and technologies are also offered. The second week is devoted to weeklong research projects that the SFI trainees conduct in small groups and present the results on the final day of the program.



## Lectures, Labs, Tutorials and Projects!

The most recent SFI was held at UCSD in August 2012. We had 20 trainees participate, including four from other Science of Learning Centers (SILC and VL2).

