At our recent CCAS Executive Session, a question was asked regarding how CAS handles dissertations. Following our discussion, I confirmed the correct responses through Dr. Matt Toussant, our Sr. Vice President of Editorial Operations. Please let us know if you have further questions. Thank you.

**Follow-up to questions from CCAS regarding CAS policies for dissertations:**

**QUESTION:** Are the reactions CAS is covering in dissertations unique?

**ANSWER:** In 2010, CAS investigated the unpublished chemistry, focusing on reactions, reported in PhD dissertations from North American institutions. The study showed that more than 50% of the reactions appearing in the dissertations were not already in the CASREACT database. Subsequently, CAS Editorial Operations initiated an effort to include reactions from dissertations in CASREACT, beginning with dissertations published in the 1950’s, 1960’s and 1970’s. Consequently, considerable portions of the reported chemistry and reactions were not published in serial publications at that time. Further, CAS **actively collects** “failed reactions” in dissertations, which are not reliably published in other documents.

**QUESTION:** How does CAS handle a reaction disclosed in a dissertation that is later published in a journal?

**ANSWER:** If the results of the PhD research project are published in a serial publication (either during or after the PhD work is completed), CAS considers the serial publication a different document and thoroughly indexes all appropriate reactions from that serial publication. A search on that reaction would retrieve both the dissertation and serial publication references.