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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the MAR10 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

**The 2008 APS/AAPT Conference on Graduate Education in Physics<sup>1</sup>**

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“Graduate Education in Physics: Which Way Forward?” was a meeting of Directors of Graduate Studies from 66 PhD-granting physics departments, professional society representatives and other interested parties, to discuss issues facing graduate physics programs. I will discuss some of the recommendations emerging from the conference that related to (i) the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of some physics research and the need for curricular flexibility to accommodate courses in new areas of interest, (ii) recruitment and retention in general and in particular the failure of most physics graduate programs to attract under-represented minorities in significant numbers, (iii) the need to properly recognize the aspirations of the many graduate students who seek careers in industrial settings, and (iv) departmental responsibility for mentoring and professional development of graduate students. Addressing these and other issues will need action not only from individual departments, but also joint action with professional societies, industry collaborators and funding agencies.

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