2024 INTEGRaL Conference

Innovation Network to Enhance and Grow Research Infrastructure and Links

ISU Bone Student Center and Virtual
July 29-30, 2024

AGENDA

Monday, July 29

10:30 am – 4:00 pm	Registration	
11:00 am – 5:00 pm	*Optional quiet room for work*	*Spotlight*
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Welcome and workshop charge *INTEGRaL PI Team*	Ballroom III
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Keynote presentation and lunch *Josh Roney, Ph.D., Florida Research Development Alliance (FL-RDA)*	Ballroom III
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Concurrent breakout sessions *Recruiting and hiring in RA/RD* *Staff retention in RA/RD* *Staff training and professional development* *Managing compliance requirements*	Ballroom I Ballroom II Circus Old Main
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Networking break	
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Plenary: GRANTED Program *Dina Stroud, NSF*	Ballroom III
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Networking break	
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	Concurrent breakout sessions *Recruiting and hiring in RA/RD* *Staff retention in RA/RD* *PI engagement* *Managing compliance requirements*	Ballroom I Ballroom II Old Main Circus
	Dinner on your own	

Tuesday, July 30

8:00 am – 2:00 pm	*Optional quiet room for work*	*Spotlight*
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Keynote presentation and breakfast *Anna Quider, Ph.D., The Quider Group*	Ballroom III
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Break	
9:45 am – 11:15 am	Concurrent breakout sessions *Working with State agencies and GATA* *Staff training and professional development* *PI engagement*	Ballroom I Ballroom II Old Main
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Break	
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Keynote presentation and lunch *Jay Walsh, Ph.D., Illinois Innovation Network*	Ballroom III
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Shaping next steps: Leveraging relationships across Illinois	Ballroom III
1:30 pm	Adjourn	

Definitions
RA: Research Administration
RD: Research Development
GATA: Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
IIN: Illinois Innovation Network
MRGAF: Midwest Research and Graduate Administrators Forum

Breakout Session Descriptions
Recruiting and hiring in RA/RD (Research Administration and Development)

Research administration (RA) and development (RD) professionals with specialized skill sets and substantial institutional knowledge are critical for building and maintaining an extramurally funded research portfolio and reducing institutional risk associated with research and external funding. Yet, many departments are understaffed relative to the work required to build and effectively maintain the institution's research enterprise. It can be challenging to hire enough staff who have the appropriate skills for research administration and development jobs. This session will explore barriers to research administration and development staff recruitment that might be addressed locally at the institution, regionally by entities such as IIN or MRGAF, or as part of national efforts.

Staff Retention in RA/RD (Research Administration and Development)

Research administration (RA) and development (RD) professionals develop specialized skill sets and substantial institutional knowledge and institutions rely on trained professionals to effectively manage the research enterprise. Yet, many people leave or change jobs for many reasons, which can be highly disruptive for their colleagues and the investigators they support. This session will explore reasons for staff attrition that might be addressed locally at the institution, regionally by entities IIN or MRGAF, or as part of national efforts.

Staff training and professional development

Research administration and development professionals must develop specialized skill sets and substantial institutional knowledge to manage extramurally funded research portfolios of any size. Yet, few formal education programs are available for individuals to train prior to starting their careers or for building skills once they are employed. Rather, most research administrators learn on the job from colleagues or are self-taught, leading to inconsistent skills and performance or other issues. This session will explore barriers to training and professional development that might be addressed locally at the institution, regionally by entities such as IIN or MRGAF, or as part of national efforts.

Managing compliance requirements

Research administration involves protecting the institution by adhering to compliance guidelines issued by the state and federal governments and other sponsors. These guidelines continually change in response to laws and external threats and can become exceedingly complex. Such compliance complexity can feel burdensome and make it challenging for administrators and investigators to confidently implement compliance protocols. This session will explore challenges in research compliance that might be addressed locally at the institution, regionally by entities such as IIN or MRGAF, or as part of national efforts.

Principal Investigator Engagement

Research administration and development professionals must work in tandem with the principal investigators (PIs) they support. This relationship requires both parties to understand various aspects of proposal development and research compliance, manage their time effectively, and communicate well to work toward a shared goal. Often, though, there is friction in the PI/research administrator relationship that can make it a challenge to prepare competitive proposals or manage awards for compliance. This session will explore challenges to PI engagement that might be addressed locally at the institution, regionally by entities such as IIN or MRGAF, or as part of national efforts.

Working with State agencies and GATA

Many institutions receive essential funding from State of Illinois agencies, which must comply with regulations under the Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). The GATA framework provides an important opportunity for institutions and state agencies to explore ways to better harmonize state and federal requirements to relieve administrative burden while maintaining accountability. This session will explore challenges and solutions for working with state agencies that might be addressed directly with the State, regionally, through the Illinois Innovation Network, or other national efforts. Two GATA representatives will attend this session to engage directly with conference attendees.