

Coming Soon: New Electronic System for Research Grants and Agreements

Dear Colleagues,

Online access to our work has never been more important. With the widespread transition to remote and online work and learning when feasible, accessibility and transparency are more critical than ever.

If you are not yet aware, we are happy to announce that the University is launching a new electronic Grants and Agreements management system called IORA (Integrated Online Research Administration). This implementation will occur in phases:

- Initiators of grant proposals or research agreements for **sponsored projects** will begin using IORA Grants in the near future, currently scheduled for January 2021.
- Initiators of **unfunded agreements** (Material Transfer, Data Use and Confidentiality Agreements) have already begun using the IORA Agreements module to initiate these types of agreements. Visit the [IORA site](#) or [Research Connections](#) for more information.

Principle Investigator (PI) Open House November 18

The goal of this initiative is simple: Grow, streamline and improve our research capabilities at the University. Your support and engagement will be critical to ensure we are successful.

Gunta Lidars, Associate VP for Research Administration and IORA project sponsor, will be hosting a **virtual IORA event for PIs, scheduled for November 18th from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.** where the team will share additional details with you, demonstrate the IORA system, answer questions and hear your initial feedback. **Please visit the [IORA website](#) for the Zoom link and meeting details.**

Why do we need an online research administration system?

Besides the need to automate and streamline many of our processes, IORA will allow for transparency and consistency in budgeting and reporting, and is critical for future research and growth opportunities at the university. Those who submit IRB protocols may already be familiar with IORA as the University's Institutional Review Board ("Click IRB") functionality transitioned to IORA in 2018.

Who will use IORA?

We anticipate that the **primary** users of IORA will be Department Research Administrators, a small number of Principal Investigators (PIs) who do not utilize administrative support, and some Research Coordinators. Department Chairs, most PIs and ancillary reviewers (e.g., Dean's offices) will have specific activities to complete in IORA such as reviewing and approving proposals. Comprehensive training and materials have been, and will be, provided to all.

Preparing for Change

The IORA project team is meeting regularly with a committee of 100+ senior Department Administrators, including representatives from each department. The goals of these sessions are to

obtain input on key decisions, share project information and show demonstrations of various elements of the system.

Additionally, more than 30 department contacts have volunteered to become IORA super users, and are assisting with testing, training, communications and streamlining business processes. Please visit the [IORA site](#) for additional details.

The team also continues to meet with various departments, Chairs, Center Directors and other leadership teams.

You are critical to success.

The goal of this initiative is simple: Grow, improve and streamline our research capabilities at the University. Your support and engagement will be critical to ensure we are successful. Please visit the [IORA website](#) for more information and updates and [reach out to the team with questions](#).

We look forward to working with you and your teams to ensure that the IORA system is beneficial for the entire research community.

Meliora,

Rick Waugh, Vice Provost for Research & Project Sponsor

Steve Dewhurst, Vice Dean for Research, SMD/Associate Vice President for Health Sciences Research