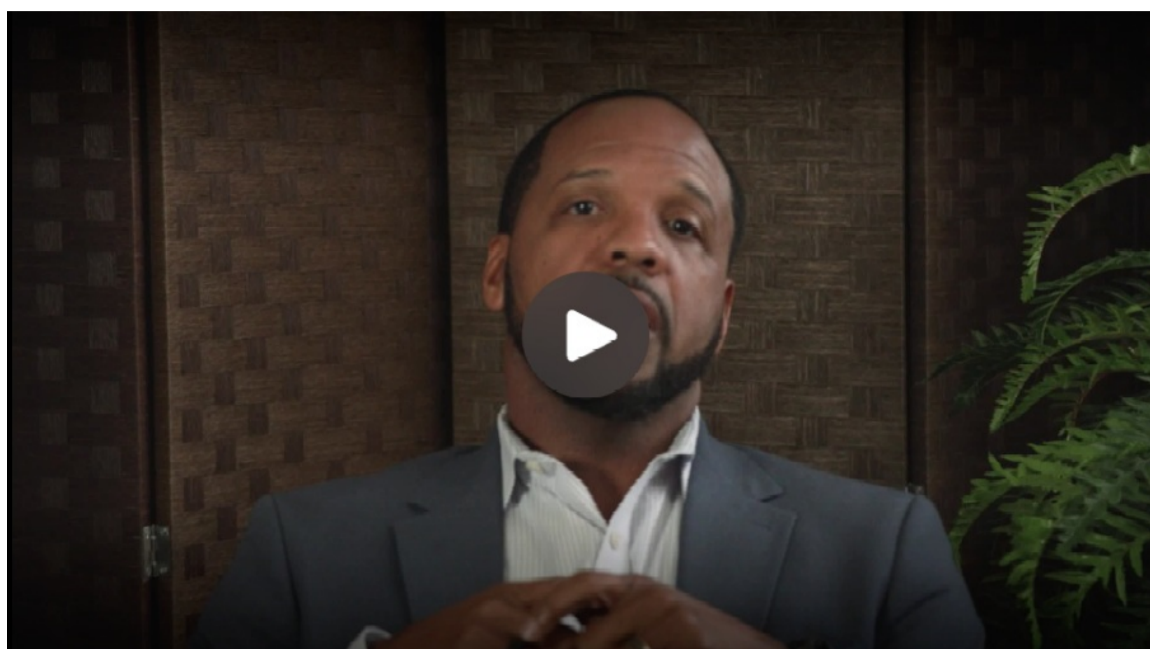## Video Message from VPRA, Dr. Robert Nobles

Hello from the Office of Research Administration!

Please take a few minutes to watch this **special video message** from Dr. Robert Nobles. As always, thank you for your ongoing commitment to research excellence and partnership!

Featured Highlights

Insight Grants Management System Updates

EMORY UNIVERSITY | Office of the Senior Vice President for Research

Phase 1 Go-Live: Aug 29, 2025

Insight
1. Agreements Module
2. Humans Module
3. Disclosures Module

Be on the lookout for notices regarding Insight training and opportunities to engage with

Emory's new Grants Management System
Implementation Newsletter
December 4, 2025

Module Updates:

Disclosures

The 2025 Annual Disclosure Period is open, running through **February 28, 2026**. This will apply to the following:
- All EHC providers and managers and above
- All full-time Emory University staff
- All Covered individuals (those who engage in research)
- All faculty who meet the criteria defined by their school or unit

Read the December 4th Newsletter

Research Week 2025: Navigating New Horizons

Research Week 2025: Navigating New Horizons

Author: Tricia Callahan, Interim Director, Research Training (OSOT)

Research Week 2025 showcased the Office of Research Administration's commitment to equipping staff with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in a rapidly evolving research landscape. Over two packed days, ORA delivered a robust program of learning opportunities designed to keep research administrators at the forefront of best practices, compliance, and technological innovation.

With six general sessions and over fifteen concurrent sessions, staff had access to more than 20 distinct learning opportunities that provided comprehensive coverage of the essential topics in research administration.
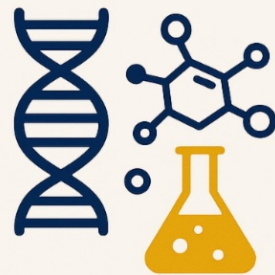
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Featured Event

Save the Date! Training Grant Day 2026

SAVE THE DATE

TRAINING GRANT DAY 2026

VIRTUAL
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026
9:00 AM — 4:00 PM (ET)

Emory University is hosting its annual Training Grant Day. The event is completely virtual and will take place Friday, March 6, 2026.

Training Grant Day is designed to connect Emory's Training Grant community and provide updates on key topics related to training grants. This year's theme is ***Resilience and Achievement.***

Highlights of the day include:
- **TGSO Highlights**. Year in review, future vision
- **Training Program Highlight.** Session highlighting training programs
- Keynote Address – Special presentation by a former T32 appointee and research policy advocate
- **Trainee Research and Training Spotlight**. Tedx-style micro presentations on the benefits and impacts of being a T32 appointee
- **Program Director Roundtable.** Special topics for current and future program directors
- **Administrative Download.** Overview of training grant specific administrative processes followed by a Q&A session

Current and potential training grant PIs, program administrators, and trainees are encouraged to attend.

Stay updated on Training Grant Day 2025 by visiting the [Training Grant Support Office website](#) or the [TGSO SharePoint site](#).

Federal Agency Updates

NIH Announces Changes to Review Process

NIH Announces Changes to Review Process

The NIH has recently announced several changes to the NIH review process. Some are temporary and others are permanent. This is for your information only. No action is required from PIs.

Temporary Changes to Review For January and May Councils

The shutdown required that NIH cancel over 370 peer review meetings, impacting the review of over 24,000 applications. In order for these applications to be considered in the January council as originally planned, the following modifications in peer review practices will be made:

- The percent of applications discussed in most meetings will be reduced to 30-35%, instead of the current ~50%.
- Applications voted by the committee to be in the middle third will be designated as "competitive but not discussed" and applications in the lowest third will be designated as "not competitive and not discussed". Applications in the middle third will be considered for funding, along with the discussed applications.
- Summary statements will be simplified. Narrative paragraphs summarizing committee discussion will not be used. Instead, summaries will have a sentence describing the degree of consensus in the committee vote, plus bullets listing the main score driving points. Summaries for all applications will contain the written critiques from the 3 assigned reviewers, as is currently the case. Summaries for applications that are discussed will have the overall impact score.

Read Full Article

Department Updates

Emory Clinical Research Office (ECRO)

EMORY | WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER | Emory Clinical Research Office

Important Update: Clinical Trial Accounts Receivable (CT AR) Data Cleanup and Source of Truth Guidance

Author: Sherry Coleman, Associate Executive Director, CT Post Award Invoicing

As part of the ongoing Compass **CT AR data cleanup initiative** —focused on study accounts managed by the **ECRO Invoicing Team**—new guidance has been established to clarify financial reporting sources for the research community.

Read Full Article

Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO)

EMORY UNIVERSITY | Environmental Health and Safety Office
Research Administration

A Note From the Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair: Recombinant DNA Protocol Renewal

Author: Marshall Lyon MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease Chair Institutional Biosafety Committee

I often hear my colleagues complain about safety training and regulatory red tape all while blissfully unaware of the fact that I chair the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) for the University. To be fair, their comments are equally directed at the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Their complaints are somewhat valid usually about training which overlaps with healthcare training or some other federally mandated safety training. I get it! There are a lot of ongoing education and training that has to be completed in order to stay certified for this or that. However, until there's better harmonization across platforms there will continue to be overlap in education.

Read Full Article

Strategic Support Services Available through Emory's Office of Research Development (ORD)

Authors: Erica Pitre (ORD) & Kelly Moore, PhD (ORD)

From ideation to sharing impact, the Office of Research Development (ORD) is here to support Emory's research faculty. ORD brings together the expertise, tools, and hands-on support that make proposals stronger and partnerships easier. Below is a brief overview of the research development services you can tap into **today** through ORD's **Support & Programming** portfolio.

Read Full Article

Upcoming Research Security Training & Disclosures

The Annual Certification Cycle (December 1 - February 28) is approaching, and we want to make the Emory community aware of a couple changes to this year's processes.

First, to align with evolving federal agency requirements, Emory will implement a mandatory Research Security (RS) training. This training is required for all **Covered Individuals** (persons responsible for design, conduct and reporting of research). Please visit **the RCRA webpage here** for more information on this training. Contact **researchsecurity@emory.edu** for any training related questions.

Second, annual disclosures this year will be done **through the Insight system**. Please follow the disclosure matrix below to the full pdf or visit **the Insight Implementation page on the RCRA website** for more information.

***Please note that faculty and/or staff wishing to submit a proposal in the upcoming months will not be able to do so if their annual certification from last year has expired. Therefore we recommend all faculty and staff update their disclosures as soon as the window opens in December to avoid any disruption in their research.

If you have any questions, please contact the Conflict of Interest team at **researchcoi@emory.edu**. copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

Mandatory Research Security Training Requirement – Effective November 1, 2025

Author: Deepika Bhatia, AVP, (RCRA)

To meet evolving federal agency requirements from NIH and NSF, Emory implemented mandatory Research Security training for relevant personnel on **November 1, 2025**. These trainings are already required by the **DOD and DOE** as of earlier this year, and Emory is aligning its efforts to ensure full compliance across agencies.

***Please note*:** Required research security training can be found in Brainier. Log into Brainier via PeopleSoft Self Service-Learning Management *prior* to clicking on **this link** to access the training.

Alternatively, log into Brainier via PeopleSoft Self Service Learning Management and search for training modules ("Research Security Training") to access the training module.

Read Full Article

EMORY UNIVERSITY | **Research Compliance and Regulatory Affairs**

Mandatory Research Security Training – Effective December 1

Author: Deepika Bhatia, AVP, (RCRA)

To align with evolving federal agency requirements, Emory implemented a **mandatory Research Security (RS) training** on **December 1, 2025**. This initiative is in accordance with federal mandates and will coincide with the **Annual Certification Cycle**, which runs from **December 1, 2025, through February 29, 2026**.

This training is a key component of our commitment to safeguarding research integrity and ensuring compliance with federal research security standards.

***Please note*:** Required research security training can be found in Brainier. Log into Brainier via PeopleSoft Self Service-Learning Management *prior* to clicking on **this link** to access the training.

Alternatively, log into Brainier via PeopleSoft Self Service Learning Management and search for training modules ("Research Security Training") to access the training module.

Research Grants and Contracts (RGC)

EMORY UNIVERSITY | **Research Grants and Contracts**

Changes to Compass End Dates for Open Ended Industry Funded Clinical Trials

Author: Edwin Bemmel, AVP, RGC

Effective November 17th, 2025, all open-ended clinical trials in Compass with end dates ten years or more from the execution date will have their end dates reduced by five years. Compass will be updated accordingly. Studies with adjusted end dates prior to January 1, 2026, are exempt from this change. All new open-ended studies will be assigned end dates five years from execution. Upon request, extended end dates for expired awards may be granted by RGC for up to five years, once justified.
Rationale:

Industry-funded clinical trials often use open-ended agreements to minimize administrative burden. Internal controls in Compass require end dates for all awards, so these trials are typically set up with a ten-year end date. This practice can leave studies open long after clinical activities have ended. Reducing the default end date to five years will allow active studies to be extended as needed, while minimizing the duration that inactive studies remain open.

Background:
This change is intended to improve the financial management of industry-funded clinical trials by shortening the default duration for open-ended studies from ten years to five years.

EMORY UNIVERSITY | **Research Grants and Contracts**

Award Closeout Updates

Authors: Carlos Salinas, Associate Director, (RGC), Patrick Amihere, Associate Director, (RGC), & Edwin Bemmel, AVP, RGC

As we approach the close of another productive quarter, I am pleased to share meaningful updates on our Legacy Post-Award Closeout Project. Our commitment to supporting faculty and research staff, while upholding the highest standards of sponsor compliance, remains at the forefront of our work.

We are in the final stretch of cleaning up the backlog of awards requiring closeout within our legacy population. By the end of December 2025, all awards with end dates of November 30, 2022, and earlier will be properly closed in our system. This milestone is especially significant considering that in 2019, the backlog included more than 9,000 legacy awards in need of closeout. Since November of last year alone, we have successfully closed more than 1,500 legacy awards, leaving fewer than 200 remaining.

Read Full Article

Faculty Feedback Form

Do you have feedback in reference with Research Administration? We would love to hear from you.

Submit Faculty Feedback

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