



Message from VPRA: Dr. Robert Nobles

Season's Greetings Emory. On behalf of the Office of Research Administration (ORA), please accept my warmest holiday wishes as we head into what I hope is a restful, rejuvenating winter break. I know that some of you will be in the lab, running experiments, soliciting new funding streams, or even writing manuscripts.... but please take the time to reflect on how you persevered despite the challenges around you; and how your colleagues around Emory are supportive of your success.

When I look back over the past few months, my heart fills with gratitude. If you recall, we arrived back on campus still grappling with the pandemic. Continuity in our staffing was our number one risk and we collaborated with our school and institutional partners to invest back into our research enterprise. This included benchmarking salaries and committing the resources needed to ensure that the team members who support research administration salaries that matched their commitment to Emory. We have also adapted to create a virtual first environment, while upholding our commitment to faculty service.

I am grateful for the recent success I've witnessed within the RAS. We started the semester with 17% vacancy across our units and were able to hire nearly 40 positions, which reduced our vacancies to less than 5%. I welcome all our new members of the team and thank them in advance for their contributions to our wonderful research enterprise. I also thank [Becky Rogers](#), [Fran Davis](#), and [Beatriz Ibanez-Alvarez](#) for their partnership and leadership during this time of adversity!

I am grateful for a robust human research protection program. Recently we had the most complimentary accreditation visit that I've ever witnessed. The reviewers were impressed with the commitment to excellence, ethical insights, and model program under [Rebecca Rousselle's](#) leadership. The site review team encouraged members of the IRB and staff to share the wisdom that has been fostered here at Emory.

I am grateful for our clinical research enterprise who services more than ten thousand patients on clinical trials; and the focus of Emory University and Emory Healthcare leadership in moving forward with IT modernization. The planning and implementation of Epic and OnCore has been outstanding, and I thank the administrators across campus and our Office for Clinical Research, led by [Robin Ginn](#), for their steady and meticulous progress.

I am grateful for our quality improvement initiatives that are underway and showing early successes. I am thankful the Dragon Team, led by [Inger Garnett](#), for committing the energy needed to streamline both our pre-award and post-award processes in conjunction with RAS, OSP, and RGC. I am thankful for [Kim Maune](#), [Marc Overcash](#), and [Wil Brown](#) for taking a comprehensive look into our Research IT infrastructure and preparing recommendations for a better tomorrow. I am also thankful for our Post-Award Setup team, led by [Jumionne Tiako](#), for their countless hours servicing nearly \$70M in new awards in the final days of our fiscal year. Our team members and partners are working overtime to improve the research environment of Emory, and their efforts are appreciated by me every day.

I am also grateful for the partnerships we continue to foster with our prolific faculty. I thank [Tamara Caspary](#) for her leadership over the year as the chair of the ORA Faculty Advisory Board (FAB). I also welcome [Jennifer Heemstra](#) and [Miriam Vos](#) as the incoming chair and vice chair of the FAB over the next year. We have achieved so much with the insight and candid discussions that occur regularly with this remarkable group.



I've shared a glimpse of what brings me joy. May you also reflect and find joy in the progress that is occurring around you each day!

Happy holidays, everyone. I look forward to more progress in 2022!

With sincere appreciation,

Robert Nobles, DrPH, MPH, CIP
Vice President for Research Administration

Significant Information

Division of Animal Resources

- [Animal Charge Rates](#) for FY22 Effective 9/1/2021

Environmental Health and Safety

- [Preparing for the Holidays](#)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

- [IACUC Office Updates](#)- December 2021

Office for Clinical Research

- Clinical Trials and the [Advantage of a Feasibility Assessment](#)

Office of Research Administration

- Invitation to Contribute to an [OECD Study on the State of Science](#)

We welcome your questions, comments or concerns.
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