

Message from VPRA: Dr. Robert Nobles



Congratulations on another amazing academic year! As many of you are preparing to celebrate summer activities with family and friends, I am hopeful that we are on our way to what appears to be the end of the COVID-19 pandemic (I remind everyone that I am truly an optimist). We have come a long way in our fight to stay healthy and make significant research progress during this unprecedented time. I am forever thankful for the commitment and sacrifice made by our clinical, research, and administrative teams to help us get to where we are today.

When I reflect on where we are today, it's incumbent to think about the journey we have persevered during the 2021 calendar year. I've been sharing broadly that Research Administration faced what many of our peers and your departments have faced, which was many staff transitions. To put that statement into perspective, over the past two years, nearly 50% of Emory's Research Administrators are new to Emory or new to their current positions. We have hired or promoted nearly 25% (~115 team members) of our current workforce since the start of this academic year (~September 2021). Needless to say, hiring, onboarding, and training our team members became a focus of 2021 in efforts to match the growth of our research enterprise.

In 2021, we also committed efforts to enhance both our clinical research infrastructure and conflict of interest disclosure activities by modernizing the information systems used to carry out those activities. We are near completion for both of these projects aimed to provide excellent, timely and efficient tools to our research community. The first, [OnCore](#), is the Clinical Trials Management System that will replace the current ERMS system beginning in the Fall of this year. The second, [eDisclose](#), is a new Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment management system that will replace eCOI. These new systems are a part of our effort to build a more comprehensive and robust research enterprise at Emory. Several informational townhall meetings are underway and more information can be found on the respective SharePoint sites.

By the end of 2021, we launched our second [faculty and staff annual survey](#). I am grateful for the gift of feedback, especially for the ~450 individuals who were candid in sharing their experiences and perceptions of the successes and challenges with research administration during the pandemic. We heard resounding messages that validated many of our focal areas, including stabilizing staff turnover, hiring additional team members, creating more transparency of grant/contract review activities, providing timely information, and continuing to implement our countless quality improvement projects. We thank you for this feedback and agree. We are working diligently on a number of priorities and initiatives that address the feedback from 2021 and that propel us through the next two calendar years. Please take a look at our [FY22/23 Strategic Action Plan](#) to observe the many ways in which we are focusing on our service, infrastructure, and stabilizing the transition of our teams. You will also observe that we are anxious to begin our discovery process for a new and comprehensive grants and contracts management system that will enhance transparency and tracking of our many processes.

We are proud of the outstanding work and phenomenal effort of our ORA staff. Each year we celebrate their exceptional contributions to our enterprise in a ceremony that we affectionately call the "[Dragon Awards](#)." The recipients of awards were nominated by their peers for their commitment to excellence in their respective departments. Please take a moment to review the awardees and comments from their peers below and help me and the entire ORA celebrate their achievements.



As we think about the next few months and the beginning of a new fiscal year, we are excited about the next triannual meeting that will be held in October. This is a time when ORA leaders connect with the leadership from schools, units, and departments sharing ORA and RAS updates as well as learn about research priorities and activities within the units.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment and partnership as we move our research enterprise forward.

Yours in partnership,

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

OnCore Training and SharePoint Updates



As part of Emory Healthcare transitioning to the Epic electronic medical record and billing system, the University will be concurrently implementing the OnCore Clinical Trials Management System (CTMS) to provide a seamless connection for clinical research across the enterprise.

OnCore is a cloud-based CTMS designed to simplify the management of clinical research and integration of multiple functions including protocol administration, participant tracking, budgeting, and sponsor invoicing.

This new system will replace Emory Research Management System (ERMS) and is for anyone involved with clinical research including those who work with research protocols, participants, or have financial management responsibilities for clinical research studies. [Continue reading here...](#)

Implementation of New eDisclose System

eDisclose is a new cloud-based enterprise-wide system for disclosing financial interests and requesting approval for external activities. eDisclose will replace eCOI and go live in Summer 2022. eDisclose offers an improved user experience, will streamline enterprise-wide processes, and enable compliance with new U.S. government regulatory requirements. [Continue reading here...](#)





[2022 ORA Dragon Awards](#)



On April 25, 2022, the Office of Research Administration (ORA) held the third ORA Dragon Service Awards. This is part of an ongoing commitment to recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of ORA's staff and members of the Faculty/Research community who demonstrate outstanding partnership with ORA. The winners of this year's awards were nominated by their peers and faculty partners of ORA.

[Continue reading about this year's award recipients here...](#)

Significant Information

Environmental Health and Safety Office

- **Extension Cord and [Power Strip Safety](#)**
- **How to Surplus [Unwanted Research Laboratory Equipment](#)**

Institutional Care and Use Committee

- **[IACUC Updates](#)- [Policies, eIACUC Maintenance, and Protocol Compliance](#)**

Office of Research Administration

- **2022 ORA Annual [Satisfaction Survey Results](#)**
- **Faculty Facing Mission Metrics- [Phase IV](#)**
- **[Grants Management Project](#)- Invitation to Participate in Focus Groups**

Senior Vice President for Research

- **Science Gallery Atlanta: [Faces Behind HOOKED Exhibition](#)**

We welcome your questions, comments or concerns.
Please email Dr. Robert Nobles at robert.e.nobles@emory.edu.
Share your ORA experience with us using the [Faculty Feedback Form](#).

Partnering with Researchers to Change the World

