

Message from VPRA: Dr. Robert Nobles



Greetings to you during this incredible time of year, Spring in Atlanta. The Spring for me always brings vibrancy, primarily from the enjoyable weather and the culmination of the academic year leading into summer. It's also a time of reflection, recognizing the year that we have experienced through the pandemic and the growing optimism around the efficacy and distribution of vaccinations. When I think of ORA specifically, I recall countless examples where members of our teams excelled to meet the needs of our researchers and partners. It continues to be incredibly humbling to be working with such dedicated and selfless professionals.

While thinking more deeply about this year, the central theme of “connections” surfaces. We started the academic year being conscious about our collaborations and mechanisms to foster trust through information sharing and our responsiveness to challenges that surfaced. To build “connections,” we implemented a series of meetings that connected ORA with departments/schools.

One of these unifying meetings was the launch of a steering committee-like meeting that we organized to occur tri-annually (three times per year) with 9 units, surrounding each of our RAS units. Each of these meetings includes unit/school Chief Business Officers (CBOs), administrators, faculty representatives, central finance, and senior leaders from ORA. During the meetings, the agendas will be organized around the following themes: 1) Unit Leaders, ORA/RAS Unit leaders, and Dept. Administrators will share critical updates, including metrics, feedback, and progress in Units & overall research administration; 2) Data-driven dialogue related strategy and continuous quality improvement initiatives, including faculty feedback and any unit specific challenges that have arisen; 3) Global understanding of the operations of ORA and interactions within each RAS unit; and 4) Avenue for communication to all levels of faculty, highlighting advancements in ORA.

Similarly, we hold routine meetings with CBOs, Associate Deans for Research, the ORA Faculty Advisory Board, in addition to ad hoc conversations across campus to build connections and gain feedback. We've also carefully assessed the results of the 2020 annual survey related to our customer service, timeliness, and competence to move research forward. It was illuminating and gratifying to know how responsive we have been to our research communities needs. We used the annual survey and the feedback we have gained throughout the year to steer the ORA's 2021 quality improvement initiatives. You'll read about some of these initiatives in this and all subsequent newsletters.

In this newsletter, you'll also read about improvements and standardization around Emory's compliance and research compliance infrastructures. We believe in growing and protecting research and our researchers, so these programmatic enhancements are designed to increase the coverage and partnership across the university. As we move into summer, we will continue working across the university to ensure safe and productive research operations. As always, I am eager to hear your feedback. Please get in touch by using our [faculty feedback form](#) or emailing me directly.

With appreciation for the partnership,

Robert

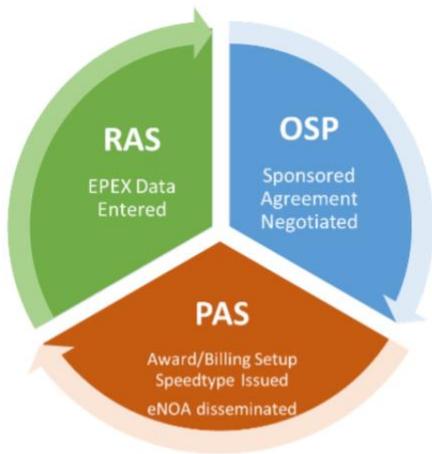
Robert Nobles, DrPH, MPH, CIP
Vice President for Research Administration



Restructuring and Establishment of the New Research Compliance Office

On January 25, 2021, an announcement was released from the EVP for Business and Administration, Christopher Augustini, regarding the restructuring of the University Compliance Office and the establishment of a new Research Compliance Office. The announcement in its entirety, can be found [here](#).

After the retirement of the former leader of the Office of Compliance, Kris West, the EVP for Business and Administration retained an external firm to perform an external review of the office and delivered a formal report to leadership. [Continue reading here...](#)



ORA Spotlight: RGC Post Award Setup (PAS) Team

Did you know spending or billing cannot occur on your sponsored programs award without the Post Award Setup (PAS) team?

The PAS team is the glue between OSP, RAS and RGC Operations. A small but powerful analysis team makes sure all sponsored awards are analyzed, reviewed, and ensures data integrity within the compass system. They work closely with OSP, RAS and their counterpart RGC Operations on critical components of the agreement when terms within the agreement are ambiguous. [Continue reading here...](#)



ORA Contract Leadership Announcement

The Emory Office of Research Administration (ORA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Janette Hannam Hayes as Interim Director of Contracts, Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) as of April 1, 2021. Janette has served OSP for over 23 years. In that time, Ms. Hannam Hayes has provided leadership in various roles such as Senior Contract Administrator, Associate Director of Sponsored Programs, and Functional Team Lead for the GRANTS Module of the Emory Compass- PeopleSoft Implementation Project Team. [Continue reading here...](#)





[Celebrating the 2021 ORA Dragon Awards](#)

On April 15, 2021, the Office of Research Administration (ORA) celebrated its first virtual annual ORA Dragon Service Awards. The presentation of the Dragon Service Awards first began in 2018 as a commitment of ORA to recognize the contributions and achievements of its staff members as well as Faculty/Research Community members that demonstrate an exemplary partnership with ORA throughout the year. The finalists of the annual Dragon Service Awards are determined by a call for nominations by fellow staff members and faculty members that partner with ORA.



[Read more about the 2021 finalists and awardees here...](#)

Significant Information

Environmental Health and Safety Office

- **[Guidelines for Laboratory Research Space Density \(Effective 6/1/2021-8/15/2021\)](#)**
- **[Summer Clothing and Lab Safety](#)**
- **[Undergraduates in SOM Labs for Summer 2021](#)**

Office of Research Administration

- **[ORA Mission Metrics- Faculty Facing Metrics Phase III](#)**

Office of Sponsored Programs

- **[eRA: All Senior/Key Personnel Required to Get a Commons ID for Due Dates on or After January 25, 2022](#)**
- **[Updated Guidance on Biosketch/Other Support Implementation](#)**

Research Grants & Contracts

- **[Change in F&A Rate for Clinical Trials Effective 4/1/2021](#)**

Senior Vice President for Research

- **[Returning this Fall- Catch up on previously aired Thursdays at Three \(T@3\) webinars](#)**

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](#)

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