SARIMA

SARIMA CONFERENCE 2020
Virtual Conference - Get Connected and join us online!
4-6 August 2020

Conference Theme:
From Support to Strategy to Impact –
Broadening the Scope of Research and Innovation Management

Research and Innovation Management has over the past few years grown as a profession and become a critical function in the establishment and growth of research portfolios in Higher Education and related institutions. The constant change in the HE landscape and new pressures on the system inevitably places new demands on institutions to respond and adapt, whilst still performing and distinguishing themselves. This requires proactive responses to the current dynamic and volatile external drivers for research, innovation and knowledge exchange.

Striving for research excellence, relevance, benefit and impact to society at large has inevitably broadened the scope of R&I Management.

No longer is this mainly a support function in institutions, but increasingly a strategic and guiding role to establish new fields of research, attract top researchers, increase multi-disciplinarity and to build new research endeavours to attract funding, attain sustainability, increase collaboration and to equip researchers with advanced tools and knowledge to better-achieve their goals. Funders are driving the need for tangible impact of research outputs, increasing prominence of institutional innovation support, knowledge exchange and technology transfer. Again, this requires a strategic drive to establish support mechanisms, incubate spin-off companies and develop research outputs for impact and recognise researchers for achievements in the innovation space. R&I Management is feeding into institutional decision-making, leading the development of research-related strategies and processes and increasing the palpable impact of the institution's research. Our conference sessions will unpack some of the elements and issues involved and how they impact on the Research and Innovation Management function and the conference will facilitate networking and collaboration amongst different stakeholders.

Delegates are also invited to submit poster presentations relating to the session topics. Posters will be on display throughout the conference.

Invitation to Submit Abstracts:

Abstracts are sought for <u>oral or poster</u> presentations under the following session topics:
You will note that some of the topics span both the Research and Innovation Management space. The online abstract system will ask you to indicate whether you feel your paper is more aligned with Research Management (RM) or Innovation Management (IM), or whether you feel that it will apply to both areas (RM & TT). This will assist reviewers with the session design and balance as it is possible that popular topics may need to be split into more than one session.

1. **Strategic Research Development**
- Identifying, selecting and engaging with universities to collaborate with
- Deriving value from collaborative networks
- Understanding core strengths as the foundation of a research strategy
- Starting with the end in mind – planning research to maximise innovation and impact
- Co-badging of postgraduate degrees – experiences, benefits, managing IP, funding student exchange (e.g. PhD's), contractual issues
- Facilitating, fostering and managing multidisciplinarity
- Funding the strategy
- Strategies to increase foreign research funding / contract research – building a track record, the role of specialized grant writers

- Building/strengthening/developing an institutional research and innovation culture

2. Broadening Technology Transfer
- Social Science & Humanities Innovation
- Commercial enterprises to support soft-funded units
- Managing sales of products from a university
- Managing services (e.g. analytical) and access to specialised equipment

3. Engaging with Industry
- Managing expectations and achieving successful collaboration
- How to create an industry "pull" instead of a technology "push"
- Creating opportunities for researchers to meet with industry
- Understanding the needs and challenges of industry, or specific sectors, to develop the research agenda
- Supporting faculty or departmental "new business development" functions, or "key account managers"

4. Strengthening SADC Interaction
- The value of building research collaborations within SADC – a strong regional network to attract intercontinental collaborators.
- Identifying areas of core strength and unique, shared research "assets" within SADC to underpin and promote the region's research strategy
- Invigorating regional innovation and technology transfer within SADC – challenges and opportunities.
- Opportunities for technology demonstration and regional licensing – the role of Technology Transfer Offices as conduits to industry in their home countries, to assist TTOs in other member countries.

5. Elements of an Institutional Innovation Strategy
- Aligning research and innovation strategies. Should they be separate?
- Recognising researcher achievements in innovation
- Balancing social impact and commercial aspirations
- Objectives, strategy development and needs analysis to support policy development

6. Researcher Development and Capacity Building
- Development programmes and requirements for early-career, mid-career or entrepreneurial researchers who wish to start-up companies.
- The importance of project management
- Successful research group management, development, achieving sustainability and critical mass, branding.
- Criteria for recognition of research groupings, such as units, centres and institutes.
- External review of research groupings, scientific advisory boards
- Succession planning, establishment of new posts
- Running entrepreneurship training programmes and/or business plan competitions

7. Measuring Impact
- Metrics for research and innovation – beyond the standard metrics
- DORA – San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment – is it right for SADC?
- Measuring innovation impact and defining what constitutes success
- Research Information Management
- Global rankings – other rankings/metrics that may be more relevant to African institutions

8. Communicating Impact
- Useful forums, sites and media
- Learning from the Knowledge Exchange Framework (UK)
- Media training for academics
- Video development
- Identifying the key stakeholders and developing a communications strategy
- Social Media
- Managing public communication when things go wrong

9. Innovation Support
- Accelerators, Incubation models
- Funding ecosystems for university IP
- Spin-off company formation, shared services, decision-making processes, equity
- Deal flow and deal structure

10. Consulting & Short Courses as Modes of Knowledge Exchange
- Benefit of centralised support and marketing
- Policy development issues – benefit share, use of university facilities, equipment and resources, allocation of time, share of revenue, rights to course material
- Converting consulting activity into longer-term contract research
- Short courses and their role in continuing professional development, allocation of CPD points (registration of courses) and as a mode of industry engagement

11. Research Costing & Contracting
- Developing a "full cost" accounting framework for an institution and an appreciation for overhead recovery
- Policy development
- Do researchers budget appropriately when submitting proposals; what checks need to be in place
- Managing disbursements to consortium members in foreign currencies and dealing with exchange rate fluctuations
- Typical non-technical support requirements when researchers lead large consortia
- Introduction to research contract law, issues relating to foreign legislation
- Developing regional or country-wide standard research agreements

12. New Era Technologies – Technology Transfer Considerations and Approaches
- Opportunities and challenges with commercialisation and technology transfer in the era of the 4IR
- Fintech, AI, Big Data
- IP Protection emerging areas and approaches: AI algorithms and machine learning. AI as the inventor.

13. All About Data
- POPI and GDPR – issues, practical implementation, new human resources / positions / committees required to manage this space
- Personal data, ethics and compliance in medical research
- Funder compliance
- Open Access, Global Access, Open Science
- Access policies and frameworks
- Research data management – infrastructure (project budgets, curation, future proofing, re-use) and policy development
- Big Data – strategic data collection as an asset to attract collaboration
- The role of the Research Office in human data management support in the context of the both the Open Science movement and POPIA/EUGDPR

14. Professional Development of R&IM
- Developing new talent in the RM and TT space
- Professionalisation frameworks, recognition and registration
- Mentoring
- Staff exchange
- The value of Communities of practice

15. Improving the Lives of Local Communities
- Understanding needs and appropriate modes of community engagement
- Ensuring that communities benefit and are not merely "research subjects"
- Supporting engaged scholarship initiatives
- Technology transfer or knowledge exchange case studies

16. Redefining the Essentials
- Back to the basics: the core functions of a research office
- Incubating IP Management / Technology Transfer competence during the early stages of university innovation activity

17. Research Ethics & Integrity
- Institutionalising Research Integrity - Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training curricula in an African context
- Text recycling / self-plagiarism
- Data ownership and right: the reluctant student publisher and the supervisor pursuing publication
- Institutional policies regarding research on certain topics, receiving funding from certain industries, or electing not to collaborate with certain countries.
- The governance of Research Ethics Committees in a centralised or decentralised governance structure
- Managing conflicts of interest (perceived, potential and actual)

- Questionable research practices

How to Submit an Abstract:

Delegates wishing to present an oral or poster presentation are invited to submit a 250-word summary for consideration and inclusion in the programme.

Abstracts must be submitted online via www.sarimaconf.co.za (See abstracts tab on web)
Guidelines on how to use the online abstract system are available on the abstract site.
The deadline for submissions is **30 April 2020**
The Conference Organising Committee reserves the right to allocate abstracts to oral and poster presentation sessions depending on space availability.
Abstracts received will be acknowledged and notification of acceptance or rejection will be communicated by email by **end May early June 2020**
Only MS Power Point will be accepted for oral presentations.

Please note:
All presenting authors are requested to fully register for the conference by **31 May 2020**
If registration and payment for the 2020 SARIMA Conference has not been received by this deadline, the presentation cannot be listed in the programme.

Abstract preparation guidelines
The following fields should be populated during online submission of the abstract:

Profile
The presenting author should create and complete the online submission and not a co-author.
All communication will be sent to the author who created the profile.
The biography is compulsory, as the chairperson will use this to introduce each speaker.

Title
Insert the full title of the proposed presentation. Title should not exceed 15 words.

Co-authors
Insert full names and contact information.

Co-presenter
Please select this function if another author will be co-presenting the paper with you at the conference (due to time limitations, as far as possible, only a single author should present in an oral presentation parallel sessions).

Session topic
Select the session topic under which you would like to present.

Text
Insert the text of the abstract. You will not be able to type additional words once the 250-word limit has been reached, so please check your abstract once submitted. Do not insert the title or co-authors in this text block. Check that special characters have copied correctly. Check that the full abstract has been successfully uploaded by logging out and logging in to your profile again.

Your abstract should state clearly what your presentation will cover how it will contribute to the particular session and be of benefit to the audience.

Poster guidelines
Further Poster information to be confirmed by 24 April 2020

Please note the following deadline dates for presenters:

30 April 2020	Deadline for abstract submissions
Late May 2020	Feedback in terms of whether your submission has been accepted
31 May 2020	Accepted abstract submitted must register by 31 May 2020
	Early bird registration closes
4-6 August 2020	SARIMA Conference

We look forward to receiving your abstract and your valuable input