

● Research and Operational Partnership: We can only move forward together

Research administration cannot occur in a vacuum, like the spoke of a wheel, the research administrator is the agent who should connect and have a degree of understanding of all other operational units involved in conducting research: contracts, procurement, finance, HR, health and safety. For a new or growing research office it is vital to employ experts in research who have the knowledge and understanding of this various fields and can navigate among them to cooperate and create cohesive change. The purpose of this panel is to provide a forum for viewing research development from these varying operational perspectives and identify where the challenges lay. The open dialogue is an opportunity for these representatives to provide their point of view and view of challenges in the hopes of identifying the common ground – and creating productive ways to create solutions as a team. Similar to a mock-debate, a series of common faculty complaints will be read aloud to the group – the relevant offices will then be provided the opportunity to both justify and refute the complaint. The floor will then be open to shared dialogue to pose means and methods for preventing or reducing the complaint in the future. As experts in their field, this will give attendees the chance to hear how various institutions address these problems and create creative ways to find effective solutions.

Presenters:

- Dr Kathleen Furr, New York University – Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), Director of Preaward & Research Development, representing sponsored projects
Kathleen has fifteen years in global research experience in administration and policymaking for both universities and government agencies. She has directed cradle-to-grave grant management and compliance administration at major universities and funding agents, with ten years of experience working in the Arab Gulf. Prior to her role at NYUAD she served as Director of Research Administration & Services at the American University of Sharjah and held Director positions at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, and the University of Illinois. In addition, she handled research at Texas A&M University in Doha, Qatar and as government sponsor during her tenure as a founding member of the National Research Foundation of UAE.
- Ms Heather Winters, Cayuse (United States), Sr. Solutions Consultant at Cayuse, representing ERA solutions
Heather 's mission is helping our customers become experts on the Cayuse Research Suite. She will answer your technical questions leveraging 12 years of experience in higher ed research administration at OHSU, UCLA, the University of Memphis. Heather has nearly 20 years of experience working for nonprofits, universities, and government and is an active member of SRA International and a highly rated SRAI meeting presenter. Heather is a subject matter expert working to help solve real-world challenges in research administration. As Senior Director of Sponsored Programs at U of M, she led a highly successful integration between Cayuse data and Banner, among other achievements.
- Lama Choufani, MA, New York University – Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) Assistant Director, Research Ethics & Governance, representing IRB operations
Lama oversees the Human Research Protection and Responsible Conduct of Research Programs at NYUAD. She is interested in holistic approaches to research integrity and in the last 7 year has transformed the IRB approach to one more akin to peer review. Before joining NYUAD she worked in areas of international and community development with nonprofit organizations in Lebanon and the UK. She was also an Anthropology research assistant at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and draws on that insight of the researcher experience when relating to faculty and reviewing human research protocols.
- Erin Kinne, Stanford University, Managing Senior Contract & Grant Officer, representing contracting
Erin has fifteen years of experience in research administration, with six years at the Texas A&M branch campus in Doha, Qatar. Her experience includes central office administration roles, currently an Institutional Official with a focus in proposal submission and contract negotiations, subawards, and outreach education. Erin holds her Certificate of Research Administration (CRA). She earned her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies; Human Resource Development from Texas A&M University and her MS in Acquisition and Supply Chain Management from University of Maryland University College.

- John O'Connor, New York University – Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), Director, Environmental Health and Safety, representing EHS

John is a highly experienced and dedicated safety professional with over 25 years of international experience in the field. John has developed a strong reputation as a trusted expert in environmental health and safety management. As the Director of Environmental Health and Safety at NYUAD, John is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the university's safety program, including research safety, occupational health and safety, and environmental compliance. He works closely with faculty, staff, and students to promote a culture of safety and to ensure that all activities on campus are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. John is highly respected by his colleagues and peers in the safety and environmental management fields. He is known for his attention to detail, his ability to identify potential risks and hazards, and his commitment to developing effective and practical solutions to complex safety challenges.
