● Research Management – A Profession to Count on!

Research management and administration (RMA) has become an integral (though sometimes undervalued) element of the research environment. It requires professional staff to not only provide research support-related services to researchers but also to support the development and enhancement of the institutional research portfolio, and that of individual researchers working within the institution.

Globally, we are transitioning to a new way of working. We need to adapt and anticipate current funder and research management trends and how this impact on the skills required within the "new normal", also including post-pandemic and digital transformation. Without agile RMA expertise it would be impossible for the researchers to succeed.

This session will provide:
1) A review of some of the typical functions of research support structures (focusing on: grants management, policies and compliance, research information management) and the core responsibilities, competencies and skills required to effectively address these functions in the research support office.
2) group discussions around own RMA experiences, and tips on how to acquire skills
3) A focus on the role of professional networks in influencing the growth of research management profession and the professionalisation of RMA: How do these networks help us in becoming better professionals, what opportunities do they bring? This includes discussion sessions of some of the training and capacity building opportunities available globally. Representatives from the various networks will illustrate programmes or certifications available for training, professional development.

Opportunities for mutual learning will be provided with a focus on early- and mid-career Research Managers and Administrators (RMA's).

Participants to this session should be ready to engage actively in discussions.

Presenters:

- Ms Daniela Amadio, King's College London (United Kingdom)
  Daniela Amadio is the Director of Award Services at University College London (UK), leading the research services division in charge of proposal development, pre-award, project management and post-award for research and innovation projects across the University.
  Daniela has experience in grant writing, pre-award support and project management. She is interested in internationalisation of research and professionalisation of RMA career. She also serves as Treasurer in the Executive Committee of Region VIII at NCURA (US National Council of University Research Administrators).

- Ms Caryn McNamara, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
  Caz McNamara is the Manager of the national Centre of Excellence in Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (CoE-MaSS) in South Africa, facilitating a government-funded programme that spans 22 South African Universities and a series of stakeholder institutions. She has a masters degree in biochemistry but has worked in the academic research management sector for 15 years. She also holds IPRC-conferred Senior Research Management Professional (SRMP) status. She is actively involved in the Southern African Research and Innovation Managers Association (SARIMA) and serves on numerous Committees therein.

- Dr Maryke Hunter-Hüsselmann, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
  Maryke Hunter-Hüsselmann is the Director: Research Information and Strategic Initiatives at Stellenbosch University (SU), South Africa. Her responsibilities include the facilitation of initiatives that create visibility for SU`s research portfolio, application of research-related information for institutional and national reporting, audits and landscape analyses, and research capacity development. Maryke is actively involved in the Southern African Research and Innovation Managers Association (SARIMA) and has served as Vice-President for a number of years. She is a member of the SA Academy for Science and Arts and an associate member of the Organisation of Women in Science in the Developing World (OWSD).

- Eva Björndal is the Director of Pre- and Post-Award at King's College London, UK. She has worked in research management and administration for a total of 19 years and has been leading and implementing change both at King's College London and previous institution.

  Since 2010 she has been an active member of NCURA, having served as Chair of NCURA's International Region twice, as a member of the Select Committee on Global Affairs, as a member of the Nominating & Leadership Development Committee and the PDC Educational Programming Subcommittee. She is currently serving as an NCURA National Board Member.