

# NCURA Region IV

M I D - A M E R I C A R E G I O N N E W S L E T T E R

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## NCURA National Meeting Preview

# The Compleat Research Administrator: Building on the Past, Preparing for the Future

Jerry Pogatshnik, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

NCURA will hold its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on November 3-6 in Washington D.C. The theme of this year's meeting is "The Compleat Research Administrator: Building on the Past, Preparing for the Future." The title is taken from the 17<sup>th</sup> century book, "The Compleat Angler," which, according to this year's program guide, was "in its time and for centuries thereafter a touchstone for the art of fishing." One would be hard-pressed to come up with a better allegory for research administration than fishing. Landing those grants and contracts requires proper preparation, a good deal of patience, and the right bait. And for those in post award—you need to know how to take care of them after you bring them home to keep them from causing a stink. So while you are thinking about reeling in that next major grant, think about joining us for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Here is a brief look inside NCURA's tackle box:

### Four Major Themes

This year's program will focus on four themes: *The Environment*, *The Job*, *The Partners*, and *The Person*.

*The Environment* takes a look at the changing landscape of research administration including the areas of compliance and regulation. A number of sessions provide updates on the research agendas of various federal agencies, including NSF, NIH, DOD, and NASA. *Environment* sessions also examine compliance issues surrounding animal care, human subjects, bio-hazardous materials, responsible conduct of research, and conflict of interest policy issues. Finally, for those of you who do not find research administration to be as relaxing as fishing, you might want to check out the session entitled "Naked at Noon...and Other Stress Management Tips."

*The Job* examines day-to-day issues encountered

by research administrators. *The Job* sessions provide advice and information on proposal development, budgeting and audits, office organization, contract negotiations, management of subcontracts, and electronic research administration.

*Partners* sessions explore ways to build relationships among universities and between universities, industry, and other agencies. Under this theme are six different sessions devoted to examining a wide range of intellectual property issues. Other sessions will focus on tech-transfer agreements, data rights and responsibilities, material transfer agreements, licensing, and confidentiality and academic freedom.

The last major theme is centered on you, the *Person*, and provides an opportunity for professional development and growth that has long been the hallmark of NCURA. Region IV members play a central role in this area and lead sessions on motivating faculty, coping with career change, utilizing NCURA's resources, and developing leadership.

### Something for Everyone

No matter what stage you are at in your career, the annual meeting is sure to have something for you.

Newer members can benefit from the *Primer Series* and *101 Series* that provide introductions and overviews to topics such as NSF's Fastlane, budget basics, human subjects, intellectual property rights, federal regulations, and legal issues for research administrators. *Forum* and *Senior Forum* tracks provide in-depth training for more experienced research administrators.



NCURA's 44th Annual Meeting will be held November 3-6.

Continued on page 3

**Inside: Letter from Region IV's Chair and a sneak preview of the Spring 2003 Region IV Meeting in Cincinnati.**

## A message from the (Crypt) Chair

As I contemplate what to write to inspire my fellow colleagues, the details of sponsored program administration haunt me. Files with all their attachments are heaped in my inbox like a totem pole of torched, shriveled, leaning jack-o-lanterns on All Hallows Eve. The clock on my filing cabinet encrypted with "NCURA Region IV Board of Directors 2001-2002" tolls the bewitching hour of 10pm as I step by step, inch by inch sloooowly creep each document I approve to the out box at the opposite end of my "la-bore-a tore-ree" station.

Sticky, stringy, silky, soft fibers encase my reading material pile where experts articulate resolutions for bad management practices, ineffective communications, slick e-grant systems and comprehensive compliance programs. I cringe at the thought of reaching through this intricate web where a black fuzzy creature patiently awaits its next meal. Fear not, there is no time for this activity.

My email inbox resembles a witch's brewing pot overflowing with complaints, queries, suggestions, policy drafts and the ultimate zinger from the system's administrator: "your inbox had exceeded its limit..." Will I be tarred, feathered and burned at the stake if I refuse to delete messages? I only wish that was my doom!!!

A skeleton tilts over the keyboard while long skinny jointed bones peck away at the letters. Erratically, the creature gnaws on lumpy, fat, cylinder-shaped sticks



and gulps dark, frothy, bubbly liquid to provide sustenance to the frail frame "chained" to the desk like Jacob Marley chained to his acts of injustice. Exercise class was once again a hallucination!!

The day is waning and my thoughts ponder the newest e-proposal systems, which once again encourage the "invisible" authorized institutional representative. What can I do to convince our agency partners this is dreadful? Maybe I can find a devious spell to alter thought process.

Echo, my pet bat (procured from the Omaha Zoo), flies around my head relentlessly on his journey in search of the "Bat Cave." Is he lost in the maze of spider webs? Confused by the "invisible director"? Or decomposed from the acrid billows oozing into the chilled, murky atmosphere? Will he die before RCR is implemented? There is no dying for the dead!!

This tale of terror sponsored program administrators relive every day has but one moral: Lack of a sense of humor will condemn your spirit to the tangled, deceiving, snare of your compliance officer. However, you can always count on NCURA to lighten your load. There is relief just a few days away. Attend the national meeting November 3-6: just days after Halloween. All of your fellow Region IV colleagues will be glad to commiserate!

Deborah Galloway  
Chair, Region IV

## Region IV Board of Directors

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If we knew what it was we were  
doing, it would not be called  
research, would it?

~Albert Einstein

## Be Sure to Plan Ahead for Region IV's Spring Meeting

**The Dates:** April 26-29, 2003. Pre-meeting national workshops will be held on April 26, with the meeting proper taking place April 27-29.

**The Place:** The Westin, Cincinnati. Cincinnati is known as the "Queen City of the Ohio River" and the Westin is a beautiful hotel located right in the bustling downtown replete with shopping, dining, and theaters, with the zoo, art museums, riverboat gambling, casinos, MainStrasse Village, and the Newport Aquarium all nearby.

**The Theme:** "E-Gov, E-Grants, E-Gads!" The meeting will highlight electronic research administration, but it will also feature sessions on a variety of other relevant topics, such as compliance issues, pre- and post-award topics, contractual issues, and other "hot topics" of interest to both newcomers and senior research administrators alike.

**The Monday Night Event:** Arrangements have not been finalized, but the traditional Monday Night Event



Just blocks from the Ohio River, The Westin Cincinnati will serve as the conference hotel for the regional meeting.

will likely include dinner and a tour of the Cincinnati Museum Center, a magnificent art deco style train terminal now transformed into three separate museums: The Cincinnati History Museum, the Museum of Natural History and Science, and Cinergy Children's Museum. And there's an OMNIMAX® theater to boot!

**All the Latest Innovations:** In the spirit of this year's theme, we plan to "go electronic" and provide all meeting participants with a cd-rom containing the materials from each session.

**Region IV Needs You!** The sessions are coming together nicely, but we still need your input. If you have a burning desire to share your wisdom, we want to help you do it! Please contact Ellen Rogers ([rogers.5@nd.edu](mailto:rogers.5@nd.edu)) for Concurrent Sessions, Mary Laura Farnham ([mfarnham@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:mfarnham@mail.unomaha.edu)) for Workshops, and Susan Sloop ([sloop@ku.edu](mailto:sloop@ku.edu)) for Roundtables. Other ideas or issues? Contact Program Committee Chair Joanne Altieri ([jaltieri@ku.edu](mailto:jaltieri@ku.edu)) or Co-Chair Pamela Krauser ([pkrauser@nd.edu](mailto:pkrauser@nd.edu)).

**Nominating Committee Report** Although the official call for nominations will not be issued until spring, the Nominating Committee plans to start informally soliciting candidates to run for the Region IV Board of Directors much sooner than that. Do not be surprised if you witness some glad-handing and strong-arming at the national meeting as the Nominating Committee attempts to identify some worthy and interested candidates. If you are interested in running for a Region IV post or if you would just like to find out more about what each office entails, please contact me or one of the soon-to-be announced Nominating Committee members.

Jim Maus, Chair; [maus@RADONC.WUSTL.EDU](mailto:maus@RADONC.WUSTL.EDU)

## Annual Meeting Preview: Something for everyone

*Continued from page 1*

For those interested in electronic research administration, there is an *eRA Track* that covers everything from database management for smaller institutions to the fight between EDI and XML. Wow! Finally, the *Real Life Experiences Small Group Sessions* provide numerous opportunities for all members to share their experiences in facing common problems in research administration.

### NCURA Workshops

Once again NCURA will offer a range of workshops on Sunday, November 3. Region IV members will be conducting several of these workshops, including *A Primer on Intellectual Property for the Research Administrator*, *Web Site Design*, *Sponsored Programs at Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions*, *The Fear Factor*, and *Writing Policies and Pro-*

*cedures That Work*. Members may also choose to spend Thursday on a visit to NIH or NSF.

### Special Events

No NCURA meeting would be "compleat" without an array of special events. Sunday evening's kick-off dinner will feature humorist Loretta LaRoche with her thoughts on "The Joy of Stress." One of the highlights of the meeting is sure to be Monday's keynote address by Dr. Robert Ballard of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. On Tuesday evening, NCURA will celebrate with *An Ernest Hemmingway Caribbean Feast*.

And finally, don't miss out on the opportunity to network with your colleagues at the Region IV Hospitality Suite.

Hope to see you all in Washington!

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## Planning for D.C.

### Ground Transportation

#### The Metro



From Reagan National Airport: About \$1.55.

From Dulles International Airport: You can take the Washington Flyer Express Bus (\$8) and pick up the Metro at the West Falls Church Metro station (\$2.25).

The closest Metro stop to the conference hotels is the Dupont Circle station on the Red Line. But remember that unless you get a cab at the Dupont Circle station, you'll be lugging luggage uphill four blocks to the meeting hotels.

#### Shuttles

From Dulles International Airport  
SuperShuttle: About \$22 first person and \$10 each additional.

From Reagan National Airport  
SuperShuttle: About \$9 per person.

#### Taxis

From Reagan National Airport: About \$14 minimum.

From Dulles Airport: About \$45 minimum.

For more on travel to and within DC see the NCURA Web site:

<http://www.ncura.edu/meetings/44/dctravel.htm>



### In the Neighborhood

Not familiar with the neighborhood of the hotels? Here are some useful links to help you plan ahead:

#### Restaurants and other nightlife options:

Search by area (i.e., Dupont Circle or Woodley Park/Zoo), type of cuisine, and other criteria at <http://dc.diningweb.com>. There's a nice restaurant dining guide in the online *Washingtonian* at <http://www.washingtonian.com/dining/bestof/dupontcircle.html>.

The Philips Collection: About a 15-minute walk from the hotel, the collection includes 20<sup>th</sup> Century art from the Impressionists on. Currently, the special exhibit is *Pierre Bonnard: Early and Late*.

See <http://www.phillipscollection.org>

Kramerbooks: Located down the street from the hotel. Check your email at the bar. <http://kramers.com>

### Sip some coffee, check your email:

cyberSTOP café, 1513 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW, east of Dupont Circle. \$7.99 per hour, \$5.99 per half hour.

<http://www.cyberstopcafe.com>

Soho Tea & Coffee, 2150 P Street NW, west of Dupont Circle. \$9 per hour, \$5 per half hour, \$3 per quarter hour.



### Beyond the Neighborhood

For just about anything you want to know about DC, see <http://washingtondc.4anything.com>. From this site you can browse or search for everything from getting around, to entertainment, to shopping, to kids activities, to places of worship.

Here are a handful of sites on many "must-see" lists:

The newest museum in the nation's capital is the International Spy Museum <http://www.spymuseum.org/>

The Smithsonian at <http://www.si.edu>  
Smithsonian exhibits at <http://www.si.edu/exhibitions>

The National Gallery of Art at <http://www.nga.gov>  
*During November, exhibitions on Willem de Kooning, and Trompe l'Oeil Painting will be featured.*

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at <http://kennedy-center.org>



The National Theater at <http://www.nationaltheatre.org>.  
*Man of La Mancha will be playing, starring Brian Stokes Mitchell, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, and Ernie Sabella.*

The National Zoological Park at <http://natzoo.si.edu>

### Communications Committee

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