

# RESEARCH REPORT

*The latest DU  
research news &  
announcements*

## *In This Issue*

**AAALAC  
Accreditation  
Site Visit**

**Data Use  
Agreements FAQ**

**Top 10 Problems  
Reviewers Cite in  
Grant Applications**

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Sponsored Programs**

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## What's New on the eRA Roadmap

Last month, the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs kicked off the pilot rollout of the eRA Financial Tracking module. The project implementation team would like to thank Jennifer Collum and Alexandra Stuart for their extensive testing and for helping us fine tune the module. We are pleased to announce the roll out for all grant administrators beginning on May 1. Broader access will be given to the entire research community beginning June 15.

Highlights of the Financial Tracking module:

- Provides a snapshot of operating budgets, expenditures, encumbrances and fund balances
- Integrates with Banner on a nightly basis
- Provides an ability to monitor financial commitments using the Soft Encumbrance tool
- Provides the ability to run adhoc reports

The project team will offer multiple training sessions with all grant administrators beginning the first week of May. We highly recommend attending one of these sessions to become familiar with the new module. In the meantime, if you have further questions regarding the rollout process, please email [pioneerera@du.edu](mailto:pioneerera@du.edu).

# CHECK IT OUT

## GRANT PODCAST

All About Grants:  
[How to Find Help](#)  
(14 min listen)

Have questions about funding opportunities, developing an application, or managing a grant award? Unsure to whom you should reach out for help? Check out this NIH All About Grants podcast to get a refresher on the ins and outs of what to do when seeking assistance from NIH extramural staff. Sheri Cummins, with the NIH Office of Extramural Research's communications group, explains where to find answers to many frequently asked questions and other information online, deciphering program, review, and grants administrative staff roles at NIH, when to reach out and when not to, and much more.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### COFFEE WITH SPA

Thursday, May 12  
9 - 10 am

Topic: Expenditure Approvals and Review of Grant Financial Reports

Please email:  
[Julie.Cunningham@du.edu](mailto:Julie.Cunningham@du.edu)  
for location information.

### OP-ED WORKSHOPS

May 16 - Noon-2 p.m.  
May 17 - 9-11 a.m.

To participate, email  
[Jon.Stone@du.edu](mailto:Jon.Stone@du.edu)

# TOP 10 PROBLEMS REVIEWERS CITE IN APPLICATIONS

As you prepare your grant application, avoid these common pitfalls! Here is a list of the most frequent problems reviewers in the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) cite when they critique grant applications:

- Lack of new or original ideas
- Absence of an acceptable scientific rationale
- Lack of experience in the essential methodology
- Questionable reasoning in experimental approach
- Uncritical approach
- Diffuse, superficial, or unfocused research plan
- Lack of sufficient experimental detail
- Lack of knowledge of published relevant work
- Unrealistically large amount of work proposed
- Uncertainty concerning future directions

Find more advice on the CSR's [Answers for Applicants](#) and the [Insider's Guide to Peer Review for Applicants](#) pages.

## GET TO KNOW ORSP

*It's been a while since we've all been truly face to face. Each issue, The Research Report will feature one of the staff members in ORSP. Get to know us and say hello!*

**Hi! My name is** Donna Marsh.

**What I do for ORSP.** I am a Grant and Contract Administrator and part of the Sponsored Programs Administration team. Our team assists investigators and department administrators with submitting proposals for external funding, including budget preparation and review. We are responsible for award acceptance and negotiation, reviewing sponsored award expenditures, billing, adherence to award compliance and regulation, subrecipient monitoring, financial reporting, audit preparation and award close out. Together we all strive to keep the University of Denver on the path towards the greatest research discoveries.

**How I can help you.** If you have any questions about Pioneer eRA or any pre-award and post-award services, you can contact me at [donna.marsh@du.edu](mailto:donna.marsh@du.edu) or 303-871-4248.

**My favorite places in Denver are** Tucker Lake/Ralston Creek Trail, Bear Creek Trail, and Roxborough State Park. I started in December 2021, so I haven't yet had a chance to explore and find my favorite places on campus.

**A little known fact about me.** I have some experience playing an instrument called the erhu (pronounced: are-hoo). The erhu is a two-stringed fiddle from China. It is played upright with the bow woven between the strings.

**I love working in ORSP because** of the knowledgeable, collaborative, and creative team spirit.



## 2022 AAALAC SITE VISIT

In March 2022, the University of Denver completed its 4th AAALAC Reaccreditation Site Visit since its initial accreditation in 2010 and was recommended for "Continued Full Accreditation." AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that offers a voluntary accreditation emphasizing the highest ethical standards in animal care and use. The reaccreditation process takes place every three years and involves submitting a Program Description followed by a site visit from at least two AAALAC ad hoc consultants. The consultants review the program description prior to their visit to prepare questions and comments for the IACUC to discuss when they are on site. Once the program description review is completed, the consultants inspect each animal facility on campus confirming the information in our program description and validating the animals' welfare and overall care.

Once the program description review and facility inspections are complete, the consultants provide either suggestions for improvement (SFIs) or mandatory items for the IACUC to complete. SFIs are indeed suggestions and can be respectfully declined by IACUC with justification. However, mandatory items need to be completed in specified time frames based on their severity and can affect accreditation if not completed. This year, we received only three suggestions (usually the minimum of suggestions offered) and no mandatory items to address. The consultants also offered the following commendations for DU's program.

- The consultants noted the "Outstanding" core animal facility, specifically the construction, equipment, utilization, animal care provisions. They also noted the high level of care and management of the Vivarium Manager Jody Davidson.
- The IACUC was described as one of the best they had seen and "a super example of Teamwork." They were very impressed by the communication between committee members and the involvement of our community and non-scientific members.
- The consultants provided a commendation specific to the IACUC Administrator and Vivarium Director, Tyler Ridgeway. These individual commendations are not commonly offered by AAALAC. The words to describe him were: "knowledgeable," "exceedingly well organized and professional," and "efficient, focused, and a wonderful program leader."
- Finally, outside of the formal report the consultants noted that the overall program was "something to be very proud of." Their comments solidified our thoughts of having a top tier IACUC!

The IACUC Administrator/Vivarium Director will begin working with the Institutional Official, Dr. Lengsfeld, the IACUC, and other campus staff to address the SFIs and begin planning for programmatic changes before the next site visit in 2025.

# UPDATES & REFRESHERS



## DATA USE AGREEMENT (DUA) FAQs

### **What is a DUA?**

A data use agreement is a written contract governing the transfer of data, including human subject data, between entities for the purposes of research. These agreements can be set up between academic institutions, non-profits, government agencies, and/or corporate entities. The Data Agreement will govern data ownership, permitted uses of the data, publication of results, development of inventions, disposal of the data, and liability.

### **Is a DUA always required if I am sending or receiving data for my research?**

If a DU investigator will be sending de-identified or anonymous data to an Outside Organization, DU does not require a formal data agreement.

If a DU investigator will be receiving de-identified or anonymous data from an Outside Organization, it is at the discretion of the Outside Organization on whether they will require a formal data agreement.

If a DU investigator will be receiving or sending data that includes any demographic data or direct participant identifiers (data that contains any of the 18 elements defined by HIPAA), a formal data agreement will need to be established between DU and the Outside Organization.

### **How do I get started to generate a DUA for my research?**

Investigators need to complete a Data Agreement Request Form if they need to send or receive identifiable data from an Outside Organization or unaffiliated investigator.

When data will be transferred to DU from an outside entity, the Data Agreement Request Form for RECEIVING data is required.

When data will be transferred from DU to an outside entity, the Data Agreement Request Form for SENDING data is required.

All request forms can be found at: [Data Transfer Forms](#). After the appropriate form is completed, all data request forms must be submitted to [datacontracts@du.edu](mailto:datacontracts@du.edu).

### **How can I obtain a DUA template for my research project?**

If data will be sent to a DU investigator from an Outside Organization, the outside entity or Organization that is sending the data will usually provide the DUA template. If you are requesting data from an organization that does not have a DUA template, please send a request to [datacontract@du.edu](mailto:datacontract@du.edu) for assistance.

### **Who needs to sign the DUA from DU?**

Typically, the organization that is receiving any data will require an authorized official to sign the data agreement first, then the organization or outside entity that is sending the data will sign the document last. DU requires that only DU authorized officials are allowed to sign these type of documents.

If a DU investigator needs to obtain a signature on a data agreement, please forward the data agreement to [datacontract@du.edu](mailto:datacontract@du.edu) for review and signature.

### **Where can I send questions about the DU DUA process?**

Currently, the [datacontract@du.edu](mailto:datacontract@du.edu) account has been created for investigators to submit DUA questions, to post completed request forms to receive and send data for research and for obtaining a DU authorized signature.

# UPDATES & REFRESHERS



## DID YOU SERVE AS A FACULTY SPONSOR TO A STUDENT INVESTIGATOR WHO COMPLETED A HUMAN RESEARCH PROJECT THIS YEAR?

Student investigators are required to submit a Final Report through the IRBNet system for any student research projects that were approved by the DU IRB and completed during the 2021-22 academic year. It is crucial that all graduating students completed this. If a student research project remains open and active in the IRBNet system after the student graduates or leaves DU, the Faculty Sponsor is responsible for submitting a Final Report on that project.



## MEDIASPACE FOR RESEARCH

DU MediaSpace is a valuable tool/service our research community can utilize to assist in a variety of ways:

- Large video storage for research projects
- Numerous metadata schemas to help keep data organized.
- Campus collaboration and access to video content via secured video channels
- AI technology that creates accurate audio transcripts
- Advanced transcript searching to find keywords in video collections
- Numerous ways to share video or audio content

If you are interested in this tool and service, please reach out to [Alex.Martinez@du.edu](mailto:Alex.Martinez@du.edu).

## TIP OF THE MONTH:

### RESEARCH EXCELLENCE PROVOST CONFERENCE SERIES VIDEOS

Provost Mary Clark and Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education Corinne Lengsfeld hosted the Research Excellence portion of the Provost Conference Series, held April 18-20.

While the series features four pillars, the Research Excellence pillar focused on sharing best practices, open discussions, and informational sessions on a variety of topics. These topics include: Corinne's keynote speech on what's next for DU, mentoring, open source publications, tips to securing awards, grants and contracts, and how faculty can prepare for impact. All sessions were recorded and are available on [MediaSpace](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Shannon Murphy and Dr. Robin Tinghitella (Biological Sciences) were featured in a DU News [article](#) about their research participation in an international study on clover evolution. The study was published in [Science](#).

# OFFICE OF RESEARCH & SPONSORED PROGRAMS CONTACT LIST



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

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## OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

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## OFFICE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY & EDUCATION

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*For assistance involving human subjects, animal, and biological research, [click here](#).*

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## OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

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*Need help finding your grants & contracts administrator? [Click here!](#)*

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## F&A/FRINGE RATES & FLOWBACK

*Janet Ianni, Director, Budget & Planning, ORSP*  
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## OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

*Data Transfer Process | [Mary.Travis@du.edu](mailto:Mary.Travis@du.edu).*  
*Invention Disclosure or Intellectual Property | [Corinne.Lengsfeld@du.edu](mailto:Corinne.Lengsfeld@du.edu).*  
*Research Related Legal Review | [Jerry.Mauck@du.edu](mailto:Jerry.Mauck@du.edu)*

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## FOUNDATION RELATIONS

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