

How can non-US institutions work with US federal funders

Trends in US funding were presented, including international expansion and searching for the best science. Websites are excellent resources for organisations to use in their quest for institutional funding, especially individual agency sites and www.grants.gov. The agencies with ample funding are the Departments of Defence and Energy, as well as the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation. The presenter reviewed the agencies' funding breakdowns, including a breakdown of applied vs. basic research for the Department of Defence. The presentation also discussed current international funding by the National Institutes of Health: FY2011 – 499 awards totalling USD 233 million. The key-word for searching the NIH database is 'concepts'. Three deadline cycles are constant each year: 5 February-5 March; 5 June-5 July;

and 5 October-5 November. Other opportunities may exist through requests for applications, HIV/AIDS research, interactive research project grants, and national research service awards. An overview of grants.gov was also presented. Schweri summarised his presentation by saying that funders are seeking the best, with emphasis on ready capability; competition is increasing and organisations need to expand beyond their normal venues in seeking funding.

(Presented by Bill Schweri)

INORMS 2014

SRA International is partnering with CAURA and NCURA to host INORMS 2014. Along with colleagues Martin Kirk (CAURA) and David Richardson (NCURA), Bill Schweri presented a general session briefing on INORMS 2014. This event will take place from 10-13 April 2014 at the Washington Hilton in Washington,

DC, USA with the theme 'Enabling the global research enterprise from policy to practice'. The itinerary for the meeting has been established as follows:

- Communication
- Cooperation
- Enhanced support
- Measuring excellence
- Break down barriers impeding global research
- Ethical and financial compliance

SRA International looks forward to co-hosting the meeting and engaging once again with our colleagues at INORMS!

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INORMS 2012

John Westensee reports on the recent INORMS conference.

The International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) is a developing network of research management societies around the globe, initiated in 2001. The first INORMS conference took place in 2006 in Brisbane, Australia, and has been held biennially since then. National or regional research management associations take turns to host the event, which places significant emphasis on international issues. The overall idea is create a forum to address the growing global context within which we work.

INORMS conferences have had an international focus from the outset, and the most recent meeting – held in Copenhagen, Denmark in May 2012 – was no exception. 450 delegates from 39 countries attended the three-day conference, which included 4 workshops, 72 concurrent sessions, and 3 plenaries. In addition, 26 posters were presented at the conference, with the winning poster presented by Isaac Kyeyune from Makerere University in Uganda. Close to 200 abstracts had been submitted to the programme. This massive interest guaranteed a high-quality programme,

with outstanding speakers from around the globe providing thought-provoking and insightful presentations.

The keynote speakers at the conference were Albert Haldemann of the European Space Agency; Peter Härtwich of the European Commission; and Ehsan Masood of ResearchResearch.

The event catered for the needs of a very diverse group of delegates, but tried to focus somewhat on the following topics:

- Integrity, compliance and ethical issues
- Measuring performance – key performance indicators in research administration
- Career development – focusing on young researchers
- Working to strengthen multidisciplinary research
- Towards a professional development framework for research administrators
- Building and developing emerging research institutions
- Data management systems

There was a particular focus on the professional development side – a number of research management societies are working on systems

and tools to increase the level of professionalism and apply some kind of structure to the profession of research management and administration.

The conference also had its own app for the first time, with the aim of engaging delegates in increased networking. The app enabled delegates to plan their own agenda, network with other delegates, and provide online evaluation. In addition, two journalists provided regular news updates to highlight what was going on in the sessions. This experiment with electronic tools was very fruitful and could be used between meetings.

More information about the recent conference can be found at www.inorms2012.com, and copies of the conference presentations can be downloaded from www.darma.dk.

The next INORMS congress will take place in Washington, USA on 10-13 April 2014. For more information, visit www.inorms2014.org

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