

NCURA REGION V 2026 FALL MEETING - Irving, Texas	
Sunday, November 1, 2026	
7:30am - 5:00pm – REGISTRATION; <i>Region V is not providing breakfast</i>	
Westlake	Registration & Information Desk (closed from 12:00-1:00pm for lunch)
8:30am - 3:00pm - AVAILABLE SPACE	
Arlington	Tranquility Room Open
Crosswinds	Co-Working Space Open
8:30am - 12:00pm - WORKSHOPS	
Salon CD	W2: Practical AI in Research Administration: Building Policy Librarians and Workflow Tools (Paid)
12:00pm - 1:00pm – Lunch Break – <i>Region V is not providing lunch</i>	
1:00pm - 4:30pm - WORKSHOPS	
Salon AB	W4: Flight Path to Success: Navigating Post-Award Fundamentals (Paid)
Salon CD	W5: Beyond the Interview: Elevating Interview Skills for Candidates & Hiring Managers (Free)
Salon GH	W6: NSF SECURE Center: Resources for a Changing Time (Free)
Salon IJ	W7: The Leadership Lab: Solving Real-World Challenges in Research Administration (Free)
3:30pm - 4:30pm - ORIENTATION	
Irving III	"Welcome Aboard" Conference Orientation and Q&A
4:30pm - 5:15pm - RECEPTION	
Foyer & Salon EF	Networking Reception
5:15pm - 8:30pm - DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT	
Salon EF	"Birds of a Feather Walk Together" - Dinner and Evening Entertainment (<i>Included in registration, badge required</i>)

Monday, November 2, 2026

7:30am - 4:30pm - REGISTRATION

Westlake	Registration & Information Desk (closed from 12:30-1:45p for lunch)
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7:30am - 8:45am - BREAKFAST

Crosswinds	New Member & First-time Attendee Breakfast <i>Registration, Ticket obtained when check-in at registration desk</i>	<i>Included in</i>
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Salon EF	Conference Attendee Breakfast (<i>Included in registration, badge required</i>)
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9:00am - 10:00am - KEYNOTE

Salon EF	Welcome & Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rachel Mersey, Executive Vice President & Provost, SMU
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10:00am - 5:30pm - AVAILABLE SPACE

Arlington	Tranquility Room Open - <i>Quiet space for commuters and registrants</i>
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Crosswinds	Co-Working Space Open - <i>Space for commuters and registrants to work</i>
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10:00 - 10:15am - REFRESHMENT BREAK

Foyer	Sips with Sponsors Part I - <i>Visit with sponsors to learn more about their products</i>
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10:15am - 11:15am - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Salon AB	D1: Bridging the Budget: Integrating Pre-Award Planning with Post-Award Realities <i>Aubrey Vinklerek, UT Austin, Aisol Ostos, UT Austin, Vorani Ramachandra, UT Austin</i>
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Salon CD	PR2: Research Agreement Negotiation – Working Below the Line <i>David Hawkins, UT Austin-Dell Medical School</i>
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Salon GH	PA1: Cost Sharing: A 360° View from Pre-Award, Post-Award, and Departmental Perspectives <i>Tribbie Grimm, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Amanda Lindeman, Texas A&M University, Jessica Clark, Texas A&M University</i>
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Salon IJ	C1: Building a Scalable Clinical Research Unit Model Through Workforce Realignment and Operational Integration <i>Asha Varghese, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Peter Chen, Stephanie Morales</i>
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Irving I & II	C5: The NSF SECURE Center: Working for All Research Administrators <i>Amanda Humphrey, Northeastern University & the NSF SECURE Center, Lori Schultz, Colorado State University and the NSF SECURE Center</i>
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Irving III	Discussion- PA10: Hot Topics for Subawards <i>David Schultz, University of Houston</i>
11:15am - 11:30am - REFRESHMENT BREAK	
Foyer	Sips with Sponsors Part II
11:30am - 12:30pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	D8: Leveling the Playing Field: Build Your Own AI Policy Librarian (No IT Budget Required) <i>James Hayward, Rice University, Alice Chow, Rice University</i>
Salon CD	C8: Clinical Trial Agreement Terms and Conditions <i>Dawn Underwood, Oklahoma State University, Candida Barlow, Oklahoma State University, Scott Davis, OU Health, Retired</i>
Salon GH	PR1: Dos and Don'ts of NIH Training Grant Proposals <i>Marilyn Rosales, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>
Salon IJ	PD3: From Values to Action: Mapping Research Administration Careers with Purpose <i>Anise Hawkins, UT Austin</i>
Irving I & II	C9: Agency Updates and Trends in Research Security and Compliance <i>Tanta Myles, Georgia Institute of Technology, Kasey Strickland, Mississippi State University</i>
Irving III	Discussion- PD6: From Connection to Growth: How Mentorship Shapes Research Administrators <i>Courtney Hoover, Midwestern State University, Robyn Remotigue, UNT Health Fort Worth</i>
12:30pm - 1:45pm - LUNCH	
Salon EF	Region V Lunch & Business Meeting – Lunch Sponsored by: UT Southwestern Medical Center <i>(Included in registration, badge required)</i>
1:45pm - 2:00pm - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Break
2:00pm - 3:00pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	C3: How to Show the Value of Your Research Compliance Program <i>Mickey Stevenson, Rice University</i>
Salon CD	PA4: From Data to Decision-Making: Building Practical Financial Management Tools in Microsoft Excel <i>Sara Sieberath, UT Austin</i>
Salon GH	PR3: Survival of the Fittest: Building a Hybrid Pre-Award/Research Development Team to Take on the Increasingly Competitive Funding Environment <i>Maria Garcia-Villarreal, UT Health Houston</i>

Salon IJ	PD1: Landing Well: Successfully Changing Institutions for Research Administrators <i>Ketti Eipers-Smith, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Lara Landry, UT Southwestern Medical Center</i>
Irving I & II	PR7: Structure Over Scramble: Bringing Clarity to Proposal Review <i>Christian Flores, UT Austin, Monica Swift, UT Austin</i>
Irving III	Discussion- D11: COGR updates <i>Jeremy Forsberg, Arizona State University</i>
3:00pm - 3:15 pm - REFRESHMENT BREAK	
Foyer	NCURA Publications Q&A - Refreshment Break
3:15pm - 4:15pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	PA3: NIH Grant Transfers: The Sky is the Limit <i>Caroline Dietz, UT Health Houston</i>
Salon CD	D6: When Pressure Sparks Innovation: Transforming Grant Management Through Creative Support Models <i>David Waldron, Mass General Brigham, Radhika Mohindru, Mass General Brigham</i>
Salon GH	PA2: Subrecipient Monitoring and Enhanced Desk Reviews <i>Danielle Nearhood, UNT Health Fort Worth, Chinh Cao, UNT Health Fort Worth</i>
Salon IJ	D3: The Resourceful Research Administrator <i>Jennifer Husmo, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center and Tribbie Grimm, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>
Irving I & II	PA8: From Chaos to Clarity: Transforming Post-Award Financial Management Through Data, AI and Proactive Operations <i>Melissa McCauley, Baylor College of Medicine</i>
Irving III	Discussion- D10: "The Write Stuff" - Writing for NCURA <i>Tanta Myles, Georgia Institute of Technology</i>
4:15pm - 4:30 pm - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Break
4:30pm - 5:30pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	PD4: Elevating Research Excellence: A Framework for Fairness, Engagement, and Retention <i>Kara Lorduy, Children's Health</i>
Salon CD	C7: From Gatekeeper to Growth Partner: Leading your Sponsored Projects Office through an Evolving Funding Landscape <i>Mark Featherston, UT Austin, DeeAnna Browning, University of North Texas</i>
Salon GH	D5: Connecting the Dots: Payment Structures, Budget Planning, and Award Management <i>Katherine Schmitz, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Ali Ismail, UT Southwestern Medical Center</i>

Salon IJ	D2: Beyond the Day-to-Day: Unlocking Transferable Skills for Leadership and Career Progression in Research Administration and Higher Education <i>Kenzalia Linen, Baylor College of Medicine, Guanpei Ming, Baylor College of Medicine</i>		
Irving I & II	Discussion- PA9: Approaches to F&A Costs and Recovery in Uncertain Times <i>LeAnn Forsberg, Texas Christian University, Jeremy Forsberg, Arizona State University</i>		
Irving III	Discussion-PA11: Discussion Follow-up From Chaos to Clarity: Transforming Post-Award Financial Management Through Data, AI and Proactive Operations <i>Melissa McCauley, Baylor College of Medicine</i>		
5:30pm - 5:45pm - TRANSITION BREAK			
Foyer	Break		
5:45pm - 8:30pm - DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT			
Salon EF	"Cleared for Laughter" - Dinner & Evening Entertainment Dinner Sponsored by: Torguson & Associates <i>(Included in registration, badge required)</i>		Dinner
Tuesday, November 3, 2026			
6:30am - 7:30am - WELLNESS ACTIVITY			
Crosswinds	"Wake Up & Wing It" - A Wellness Takeoff with Gil Tran (Zumba) and Jenn Lane (Recovery, Deep Stretch & Relaxation) - <i>Included in registration, open to all individuals</i>		
7:30am - 11:00am - REGISTRATION			
Westlake	Registration & Information Desk		
7:30am - 8:45am - BREAKFAST			
Salon EF	Networking Breakfast <i>(Included in registration, badge required)</i>		
7:30am – 8:45am - MMP BREAKFAST			
Irving III	Mustang Mentoring Program Alumni Breakfast <i>(for MMP affiliates)</i>		
8:45am - 9:00am - TRANSITION BREAK			
Foyer	Networking Break		
9:00am - 10:00am - DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER			
Salon EF	Gil Tran, CPA, Senior Specialist Leader, Attain Partners, LLC		

10:00am - 3:30pm - AVAILABLE SPACE	
Arlington	Tranquility Room Open - <i>Quiet space for commuters and registrants</i>
Crosswinds	Co-Working Space Open - <i>Space for commuters and registrants to work</i>
10:00 - 10:30am - REFRESHMENT BREAK	
Foyer	Coffee, Connections and Committees <i>Visit with Committee Chairs and Officers. Learn what volunteer opportunities are available for 2027.</i>
10:30am - 11:30am - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	C2: Lessons from the Field: Real-World Examples of NIH Human Subjects and Clinical Trial Proposals <i>Katherine Schmitz, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Kathryn Naumann, UT Southwestern Medical Center</i>
Salon CD	PA6: Cost transfers demystified: A grant manager's guide to accuracy and accountability <i>Jessica Clark, Texas A&M University, Tribbie Grimm, MD Anderson, Jennifer Husmo, MD Anderson</i>
Salon GH	Mustang Mentoring Program (MMP) Presentations - Mustang Mentees present Capstone Projects
Salon IJ	PD5: The AOR Journey: From the Ground Up <i>Caroline Dietz, UT Health Houston, Carmen Martinez, UT Health Houston</i>
Irving I & II	D4: Reimagining the Grant Lifecycle: How AI Agents Are Shaping the Future of Research Administration at MGB <i>David Waldron, Mass General Brigham, Radhika Mohindru, Mass General Brigham</i>
Irving III	Discussion- D9: Facilitating communication between central support and departments <i>Kim Harris, Texas Tech University, Liz Lindsey, Texas Tech University</i>
11:30am - 1:00pm - LUNCH	
Salon EF	Awards Ceremony and Mustang Mentoring Program Graduation Lunch Sponsored by: The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, <i>(Included in registration, badge required)</i>
1:00pm - 1:15pm - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Networking Break
1:15pm - 2:15pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	C6: Audits <i>David Schultz, University of Houston</i>
Salon CD	D7: From Metrics to Meaning: Using Data Analytics for Program Evaluation in Research Development <i>Ariel Tinney, Texas A&M University</i>

Salon GH	PR5: Leveraging AI in Research Administration: How a travel bot addresses both compliance and budgetary approvals for a complex travel approvals process <i>Maria Garcia-Villarreal, UTHealth Houston</i>
Salon IJ	PR4: Cleared for Takeoff: Soaring to New Heights in Industry Proposal Development <i>Scott Davis, OU Health, Retired; Katherine Kissmann, Texas A&M University</i>
Irving I & II	C4: IP, Data Sharing, and Open-Source: Hidden Compliance Risks in Research Agreements <i>Thao Nguyen, UT Health Houston</i>
Irving III	D12: PUI Discussion: One small office to fly the planes and run the airport <i>Katie Plum, Angelo State University</i>
2:15pm - 2:30pm - REFRESHMENT BREAK	
Foyer	Networking Refreshment Break
2:30pm - 3:30pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	PR8: Two Worlds, One Goal: Pre-Award Strategies That Prevent Post-Award Delays <i>Elizabeth Garcia, The University of Texas at San Antonio</i>
Salon CD	PA7: Understanding Subawards: A Beginner's Guide <i>Adriana Coronado, The University of Texas at Dallas</i>
Salon GH	PR6: Same Grant, Different Worlds: Aligning Faculty and Administrators Across Institutions of Varying Size and Structure <i>Elizabeth Johnston Vasquez, Texas A&M University</i>
Salon IJ	PD2: Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with a Healthier Work-Life Balance <i>Scott Davis, OU Health, Retired</i>
Irving I & II	PA5: CPRIT through a Post-Award lens – grant management as a central post award specialist <i>Vorani Ramachandra, UT Austin</i>
3:30pm - 5:30pm - RECEPTION	
Salon EF	"Fly Home for the Winter" Farewell Networking Reception - Visit with new contacts before heading home (Heavy appetizers included in registration)
5:30pm - CONFERENCE CONCLUDES	
Restaurants	Dinner Groups and Networking not hosted by Region V