NCURA REGION V 2026 FALL MEETING - Irving, Texas	
Sunday, November 1, 2026	
7:30am - 5:00pm – REGISTRATION; *Region V is not providing breakfast*	
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 – *Region V is not providing lunch*	
1:00pm - 4:30pm - WORKSHOPS	
Salon CD	**W4: Flight Path to Success:** Navigating Post-Award Fundamentals (Paid)
Salon A	**W5: Beyond the Interview:** Elevating Interview Skills for Candidates & Hiring Managers (Free)
Salon G	**W6: NSF SECURE Center:** Resources for a Changing Time (Free)
Salon I	**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 (*Included in registration, badge required)*

Monday, November 2, 2026	
7:30am - 4:30pm - REGISTRATION	
Westlake	**Registration & Information Desk** (closed from 12:30-1:45p for lunch)
7:30am - 8:45am - BREAKFAST	
Crosswinds	**New Member & First-time Attendee Breakfast** *Included in Registration, Ticket obtained when check-in at registration desk*
Salon EF	**Conference Attendee Breakfast** (*Included in registration, badge required)*
9:00am - 10:00am - KEYNOTE	
Salon EF	**Welcome & Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Rachel Mersey, Executive Vice President & Provost, SMU
10:00am - 5:30pm - AVAILABLE SPACE	
Arlington	Tranquility Room Open - *Quiet space for commuters and registrants*
Crosswinds	Co-Working Space Open - *Space for commuters and registrants to work*
10:00 - 10:15am - REFRESHMENT BREAK	
Foyer	**Sips with Sponsors** - *Visit with sponsors to learn more about their products*
10:15am - 11:15am - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	**D1: Bridging the Budget: Integrating Pre-Award Planning with Post-Award Realities** *Aubrey Vinklarek, UT Austin, Aisol Ostos, UT Austin, Vorani Ramachandra, UT Austin*
Salon CD	**PR2: Research Agreement Negotiation – Working Below the Line** *David Hawkins, UT Austin-Dell Medical School*
Salon GH	**PA1: Cost Sharing: A 360° View from Pre-Award, Post-Award, and Departmental Perspectives** *Tribbie Grimm, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Amanda Lindeman, Texas A&M University, Jessica Clark, Texas A&M University*
Salon IJ	**C1: Building a Scalable Clinical Research Unit Model Through Workforce Realignment and Operational Integration** *Asha Varghese, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Peter Chen, Stephanie Morales*
Irving I & II	**C5: The NSF SECURE Center: Working for All Research Administrators** *Amanda Humphrey, Northeastern University & the NSF SECURE Center, Lori Schultz, Colorado State University and the NSF SECURE Center*

Irving III	**Discussion- PA10: Hot Topics in Subawards: Navigating Current Issues and Best Practices** *David Schultz, University of Houston*
11:15am - 11:30am - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Networking Break
11:30am - 12:30pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	**D8: AI in Action: Practical Applications, Risk Management, and What's Next for Research Administrators** *James Hayward, Rice University, Alice Chow, Rice University*
Salon CD	**C8: Clinical Trial Agreement Terms and Conditions** *Dawn Underwood, Oklahoma State University, Candida Barlow, Oklahoma State University, Scott Davis, OU Health, Retired*
Salon GH	**PR1: Dos and Don'ts of NIH Training Grant Proposals** *Marilyn Rosales, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center*
Salon IJ	**PD3: From Values to Action: Mapping Research Administration Careers with Purpose** *Anise Hawkins, UT Austin*
Irving I & II	**C9: Agency Updates and Trends in Research Security and Compliance** *Tanta Myles, Georgia Institute of Technology, Kacey Strickland, Mississippi State University*
Irving III	**Discussion- PD6: From Connection to Growth: How Mentorship Shapes Research Administrators** *Courtney Hoover, Midwestern State University, Robyn Remotigue, UNT Health Fort Worth*
12:30pm - 1:45pm - LUNCH	
Salon EF	**Region V Lunch & Business Meeting** – Lunch Sponsored by: UT Southwestern Medical Center *(Included in registration, badge required)*
1:45pm - 2:00pm - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Networking Break
2:00pm - 3:00pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	**C3: How to Show the Value of Your Research Compliance Program** *Mickey Stevenson, Rice University*
Salon CD	**PA4: From Data to Decision-Making: Building Practical Financial Management Tools in Microsoft Excel** *Sara Sieberath, UT Austin*
Salon GH	**PR3: Survival of the Fittest: Building a Hybrid Pre-Award/Research Development Team to Take on the Increasingly Competitive Funding Environment** *Maria Garcia-Villarreal, UT Health Houston*

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

Salon IJ	**D2: Beyond the Day-to-Day: Unlocking Transferable Skills for Leadership and Career Progression in Research Administration and Higher Education** *Kenzalia Linen, Baylor College of Medicine, Guanpei Ming, Baylor College of Medicine*
Irving I & II	**Discussion- PA9: Approaches to F&A Costs and Recovery in Uncertain Times** *LeAnn Forsberg, Texas Christian University, Jeremy Forsberg, Arizona State University*
Irving III	**Discussion-PA11: Discussion Follow-up From Chaos to Clarity: Transforming Post-Award Financial Management Through Data, AI and Proactive Operations** *Melissa McCauley, Baylor College of Medicine*
5:30pm - 5:45pm - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Networking Break
5:45pm - 8:30pm - DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT	
Salon EF	**"Cleared for Laughter" - Dinner & Evening Entertainment** Dinner Dinner Sponsored by: Torguson & Associates (*Included in registration, badge required)*
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) - *Included in registration, open to all individuals*
7:30am - 11:00am - REGISTRATION	
Westlake	**Registration & Information Desk**
7:30am - 8:45am - BREAKFAST	
Salon EF	**Networking Breakfast** (*Included in registration, badge required)*
7:30am – 8:45am - MMP BREAKFAST	
Irving III	**Mustang Mentoring Program Alumni Breakfast** *(for MMP affiliates)*
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 - *Quiet space for commuters and registrants*
Crosswinds	Co-Working Space Open - *Space for commuters and registrants to work*
10:00 - 10:30am - REFRESHMENT BREAK	
Foyer	**Coffee, Connections and Committees** *Visit with Committee Chairs and Officers. Learn what volunteer opportunities are available for 2027.*
10:30am - 11:30am - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	**C2: Lessons from the Field: Real-World Examples of NIH Human Subjects and Clinical Trial Proposals** *Katherine Schmitz, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Kathryn Naumann, UT Southwestern Medical Center*
Salon CD	**PA6: Cost transfers demystified: A grant manager's guide to accuracy and accountability** *Jessica Clark, Texas A&M University, Tribbie Grimm, MD Anderson, Jennifer Husmo, MD Anderson*
Salon GH	**Mustang Mentoring Program (MMP) Presentations** - *Mustang Mentees present Capstone Projects*
Salon IJ	**PD5: The AOR Journey: From the Ground Up** *Caroline Dietz, UT Health Houston, Carmen Martinez, UT Health Houston*
Irving I & II	**D4: Reimagining the Grant Lifecycle: How AI Agents Are Shaping the Future of Research Administration at MGB** *David Waldron, Mass General Brigham, Radhika Mohindru, Mass General Brigham*
Irving III	**Discussion- D9: Facilitating communication between central support and departments** *Kim Harris, Texas Tech University, Liz Lindsey, Texas Tech University*
11:30am - 1:00pm - LUNCH	
Salon EF	**Awards Ceremony and Mustang Mentoring Program Graduation** Lunch Sponsored by: The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, *(Included in registration, badge required)*
1:00pm - 1:15pm - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Networking Break
1:15pm - 2:15pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	**C6: Navigating Audits: Roles, Responsibilities, and Readiness** *David Schultz, University of Houston*
Salon CD	**D7: From Metrics to Meaning: Using Data Analytics for Program Evaluation in Research Development** *Ariel Tinney, Texas A&M University*

Salon GH	**PR5: Leveraging AI in Research Administration: How a travel bot addresses both compliance and budgetary approvals for a complex travel approvals process** *Maria Garcia-Villarreal, UTHealth Houston*
Salon IJ	**PR4: Cleared for Takeoff: Soaring to New Heights in Industry Proposal Development** *Scott Davis*, OU *Health, Retired; Katherine Kissmann, Texas A&M University*
Irving I & II	**C4: IP, Data Sharing, and Open-Source: Hidden Compliance Risks in Research Agreements** *Thao Nguyen, UT Health Houston*
Irving III	**D12: PUI Discussion: One small office to fly the planes and run the airport** *Katie Plum, Angelo State University*
2:15pm - 2:30pm - TRANSITION BREAK	
Foyer	Networking Break
2:30pm - 3:30pm - CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Salon AB	**PR8: Two Worlds, One Goal: Pre-Award Strategies That Prevent Post-Award Delays** *Elizabeth Garcia, The University of Texas at San Antonio*
Salon CD	**PA7: Understanding Subawards: A Beginner's Guide** *Adriana Coronado, The University of Texas at Dallas*
Salon GH	**PR6: Same Grant, Different Worlds: Aligning Faculty and Administrators Across Institutions of Varying Size and Structure** *Elizabeth Johnston Vasquez, Texas A&M University*
Salon IJ	**PD2: Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with a Healthier Work-Life Balance** *Scott Davis, OU Health, Retired*
Irving I & II	**PA5: CPRIT through a Post-Award lens – grant management as a central post award specialist** *Vorani Ramachandra, UT Austin*
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	Two Dinner Groups and Networking not hosted by Region V – *Signup in Registration room (Westlake) before 10am on Tuesday.*