



January 2024 Newsletter

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Congratulations to our new CFRA Certificants!

Name	Institution
Melissa Amos	Nationwide Children's Hospital
Karen Bell	George Mason University
Melissa Campbell	The Lundquist Institute
Jenny Chang	MD Anderson Cancer Center
William Cone	University of Georgia
Heidi Copeland	Northeastern University
Marshall Ferguson	University of Colorado Colorado Springs
Robert Fleming	University of Maine
Jason Galloway	University of New Mexico Health Sciences
Brenda Garcia	NJIT
Sarah Garcia	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Nathalia Gonzalez	George Mason University
Kenneth Gruber	University of Maryland Baltimore County
Jacqueline Kang	George Mason University
Leena Kathuria	North Carolina Institute
Efosa Lawani	Brigham and Women's Hospital Inc
Lucy Manyara	Morgan State University
Kimberly Melville-Smith	Colorado State University
Sehameyelesh Mesfin	North Carolina A&T State University
Karen Miller	Buck Institute for Research on Aging
Shaila Philpot	Georgia State University
Ariana Slemmens	The Jackson Laboratory
Anna Swarts	Vanderbilt University
Zhen Tian	MD Anderson Cancer Center

Congratulations to our new CRA Certificants!

We are so excited to



**announce all the
CRA Certificants.**

List of new CRA Certificants

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

Have you changed positions? Remember to update your member information to ensure you don't miss important information from RACC!

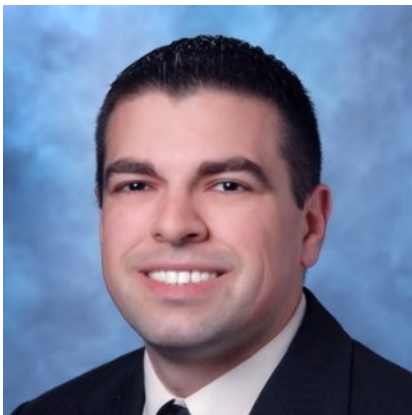
Helpful Tip: Consider using a personal email to avoid having to change your contact information when you change institutions.

In the **Certificants Only Area** on the website you can:

- *Update your information for the directory under the **My Profile** page
- ***Track Contact Hours** and create a PDF document
- ***Check out Calendar** to see upcoming events such as review sessions, conferences, and meetings

If you need assistance, please contact info@cra-cert.org.

Keeping Remote Staff Engaged



**Sami Naber, MBA, CRA
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**

It's December 2019 and your team is celebrating another successful year at the annual holiday party. The team functions well together, has a rare camaraderie and ability to help each other out, and understands each other's roles and responsibilities. As is standard, the bulk of the team is in the office daily, apart from an occasional remote day as needed.

We all know what happens next. The COVID-19 Pandemic changes our lives completely, and a workforce that is largely accustomed to in person interaction and communication must now adapt overnight to a world where all communication is electronic. Some adapt well; their productivity remains high and there is little to no residual effect of working remotely. In fact, they enjoy the flexibility and prefer their new set up. **Full Story**

Uniform Guidance Proposed Revisions

**Lauren Zajac, MPA, CRA
University of Arizona**

In September, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published proposed changes to

Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200) for research grants and contracts. The full text is available [here](#). Originally announced in 2013, Uniform Guidance went into effect on December 26, 2014, and was meant to streamline all the prior rules and regulations for grants and contracts, and across federal agencies. For more information, review “OMB Uniform Guidance” (2014) linked [here](#). These new proposed changes are meant to reduce administrative burdens and provide clarity to some sections by using plain language and more current terminology.



Some of the notable proposed changes include:

1. An increase in the single audit threshold from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000
2. Use of the term “recipient or subrecipient” instead of the current term, “nonfederal entity”
3. An increase in the de minimis facilities and administrative cost rate from 10% to 15%, for those institutions who do not have a negotiated rate agreement
4. An increase in the equipment threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000
5. An increase in the subaward exclusion threshold from \$25,000 to \$50,000 modified total direct costs base
6. New language to remove many current prior written approval requirements

The OMB allowed interested individuals and organizations to submit comments for 60 days. As research administrators, it is important to understand that some changes are anticipated and watch for more information. If codified and implemented, changes to the Uniform Guidance will go into effect within 90 days and will have an impact on the way we manage grants and contracts, and work with federal agencies and each other.

Spotlight on a RACC Board Member: Pat Buennemeyer



**Katie Watkins, M.Ed, CRA, CFRA
University of Akron**

Research administrators far and wide know the name Pat Buennemeyer. Pat, an icon in the field, was for many years my presenting partner for CRA Body of Knowledge review sessions. I first met Pat in Milwaukee way back in 2003 when I attended my first RACC Board meeting. Under Pat’s tutelage I became a Body of Knowledge presenter. Pat and I were often paired to present together and that’s when I learned about Pat’s special skills. I consider Pat a “connector.” Whether at a BOK review session or behind the RACC booth at professional society meetings, Pat had a knack for connecting with people. When Pat and I presented, I’d be

checking the AV and room setup, getting coffee, etc., and Pat would be greeting each participant as they came into the room. Pat always found common ground for discussion with the participants and by the end of the Review Session, she would know most of the participants by name. I feel extremely fortunate to have presented with Pat over the years and I learned a lot from her. Not only about presenting the Body of Knowledge, but also about how to connect with others.

Pat currently serves on the RACC Board of Directors as Chair Emerita.

Take Us with You

If you plan to move to another job and still want to receive the RACC Newsletter, please let us know your new email address. We will ensure that you still receive the same great service and reading material. Thanks!

Contact
Us

Believe it or Not!

Many years ago, one of the PIs that I supported had an international project that involved a very large, specialized piece of equipment. It was in the process of being transported to the research location via cargo freight ship. He sent me an urgent email one day asking for advice on how to handle the fact that the piece of equipment, while on the freight carrier, managed to break free of its constraints and land at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean! Needless to say, it took a “village” to handle this situation – from Research Admin, Sponsored Research Office, Office of Liability, Procurement, and the Sponsor. As a sidebar, it has never been retrieved from the Atlantic.

B. Morgan, CRA, The George Washington University

Did you know...

that you cannot purchase human body parts, but you can get them “for free, just pay shipping and handling.”

Organizations who receive donated bodies can provide parts from them, in this case it was human spines, to researchers. They cannot charge a price per item, but they can charge for the costs of preparing and shipping the materials. So in that particular budget justification, under Other Direct Costs: “Fee for Spines”.

S.Cao, Oregon State University

Please share your story!

Use the “Believe it or Not” button and send us your story. This is the one place where research administrators from all over can laugh, cry, and sympathize. We have all been there!

Believe it or Not

Exam Schedules and Body of Knowledge Review Sessions

Exam schedules and Body of Knowledge Review sessions can be found [HERE](#).



To host a review session contact
Kelley Apodaca, Review Session
Coordinator

Kelley Apodaca

Ready to Recertify?

Keep track of your contact hours and supporting documentation by using [RACC Website](#).

If you have any questions on our recertification process, please contact Susanne MacDonald.

Find vital information regarding recertification [HERE](#)

**Susanne
MacDonald**

Check out our social media pages for upcoming contact hour opportunities!

**Visit our
website**

Contact Hour Opportunities

[Society of Research Administrators International](#)

[National Council of University of Research Administrators](#)

[Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI Program\)](#)

[Research Administration Demonstration Series \(RAD\)](#)



Employment Opportunities

**View All Job
Postings**

[Contact us](#) to post employment opportunities on the RACC website.

Newsletter Subscriptions

If you have friends or colleagues that may want to receive our newsletter, send us their email address using the "Sign Me Up!" button. We will contact them and get their permission to subscribe. However, if you no longer want to hear from us, press the button and say, "Let Me Go!" in the subject line.

Sign Me Up!

Let Me Go!

Are you interested in taking the Certified Financial Research Administrator (CFRA) Exam? Take the practice exam to test your skill.

[CFRA Practice Exam](#)

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS CERTIFICATION COUNCIL?

The Council is a private, independent, nonprofit organization that develops and administers a voluntary program for the certification of individuals who meet the requirements established by the Council.

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[RA Directory](#)

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Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) to receive RACC updates, free contact hour opportunities, information regarding upcoming RACC Body of Knowledge Sessions, and celebrate milestones!

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