**April 2015**

**Job classifications – feedback from our research community**

Thanks to everyone who attended our March RPN events, where we heard about job classifications progress for research professionals. Rebecca Brouwer, who represented the Clinical Research Professionals Workgroup (CRPWG), described the proposed job classification model and conducted a stoplight evaluation. With a stoplight evaluation, participants are able to either “green light” or “red light” several components of the plan. Overall, if an item received at least 80% green lights, this is an indication that there are no major issues. Each item of the model that was proposed to the group achieved at least 80% green lights. Based on feedback, the CRPWG does plan to update the minimum experience requirements for the Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator position.

The CRPWG is reviewing feedback obtained from 175 professionals. Here is a quick review of who completed stoplight evaluations. We appreciate every rating and comment. In subsequent issues of the RPN Network News, we will share information as the process continues to evolve. Updates about this project will be posted on the DOCR wiki page.

**Upcoming features of the RPN**

Please join us in the Hock Auditorium on the ground level of Hock Plaza for our next network meeting—April 14th at 1:00 PM. Our speaker will be Jody Power, MS, MBA, CIP, who will talk about the professional journey she took towards becoming the Executive Director of the DUHS IRB. Following the talk, the Office of Research Informatics will help demystify a protocol’s path towards institutional approval. The floor will be open to questions and light refreshments will be served.
Using the Joint Task Force for Clinical Research Competency domains at Duke

The competency domain wheel is becoming a staple at our events. It will be used in a variety of ways in clinical research, including serving as a framework to organize the job classifications and implement our training offerings. Check out two key articles—both available on the DOCR wiki for the RPN—to find out how the wheel was developed.

To make the competency domain wheel more relevant to work at Duke, we would very much appreciate your participation in a survey of clinical research professionals. The survey is conducted by the JTFCRC. This is an ambitious global initiative of the JTFCRC in collaboration with a number of professional organizations and corporate entities involved in the clinical research enterprise. The objectives of this initiative are:

1. To enable individual clinical research professionals to self-assess the relevance of specific core competencies within the JTF Framework to their professional activities as well as to make them aware of any education or training which may be necessary to improve performance.
2. To help sponsoring organizations, academic institutions and regulatory bodies to plan their representative education and training initiatives based on identified needs.
3. To assess the feasibility of utilizing competency profiles and competency portfolios to define the many roles within the clinical research team.

You can access the external survey at the following weblink (it should take approximately 30 minutes to complete and please note, this survey is being administered externally):
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RN6NBNC

Interested in becoming a SME (Subject Matter Expert)? We are looking for leaders in the field to help us with mentoring, teaching, and onboarding of our Duke Research Community. Areas of Expertise are based on the competency domain wheel. Email the RPN at DOCR-rpn@dm.duke.edu to let us know your area of expertise, or if you would just like to learn more.

Your questions answered!
At the May 26th events (being held at 1pm and 4pm), we will be bringing in several Research Practice Managers to answer your questions. Are you still curious about some functions of the CRUs? Do you wonder why some things work a certain way? Submit your questions to us at docr-rpn@dm.duke.edu!

Do you have leftover or expiring study kits? The RPN is collecting leftover phlebotomy supplies. This is in an effort to help research professionals taking the DOCR phlebotomy competency course have the needed supplies to obtain the required sticks for certification. If you are in need of supplies to fulfill your requirements, or have supplies to donate please contact the RPN.

Do you have ideas, input, and suggestions for the RPN? The Research Professionals Network is an initiative of the Duke Office of Clinical Research. Contact us at DOCR-rpn@dm.duke.edu with ideas, suggestions, and questions. We’d like to hear from you!

Please forward this newsletter to any Duke Medicine research staff that may be interested in joining the network. These free RPN events connect research staff across Duke to foster networking and mentoring, and help those looking to grow professionally or explore options in their career path.