RPN Kick-off events help frame our future!
Thanks to everyone who attended our kickoff events in December and January. There were over 100 of you, representing a number of CRUs, departments, centers, and institutes. During those events, we asked you to tell us about your strengths, where you’d like to develop, and what you hope to get out of joining the Research Professionals Network. We appreciated hearing from all of the diverse attendees, and learned that we all have a lot in common. For example, a majority of attendees want to develop more skills in Leadership and Professionalism, Study and Site Management, and Scientific Concepts and Research Design.

Here is a snapshot of what we learned from our attendees – the blue bars show areas of strength, and orange bars denote areas where the RPN could support professional development:
**Next steps for the RPN**
You are invited to join us in the Hock Auditorium on the ground level of Hock Plaza for our next network meeting—February 24th at 4:00 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.

How will you know about this and future events? An email from the Learning Management System (LMS) will go out approximately 2 weeks prior to events to people signed up for the network. You can register for the event directly from a link embedded in the email. Please help us plan well by registering for the event. This will appear on your transcript! If you haven’t already signed up for news about the RPN, please email us at docr-rpn@dm.duke.edu to be added to our listserv.

**Topics for coming events include:**
- March: Job Classifications for the Research Professional
- April: Leadership, Communication, and Mentoring
- May: Research Practice Manager Forum: Thinking Outside the Silo
- June: Budgets and Feasibility Assessments – Planning Early for Success
- July: RPN Open Forum

**Upcoming professional development opportunities**
- SOCRA study sessions (Thursdays in March from 4:30-6:30, Hock Plaza, 9th floor collaborative area) – email rpn-docr@dm.duke.edu for more information.
- Guidance on new NIH biosketch requirements for NIH submissions (registration here)

**Click here for more about upcoming RPN events (updated as dates/location information are available).**

**Did you know? Job classifications are being updated for Research Professionals**
If you came to our kick-off events, you may recognize this wheel of eight clinical research domains. If you weren’t able to come to our kick-offs, don’t worry! We will be talking a lot more about this wheel, because Duke is using it to help guide new job classifications for research professionals like you. Be sure to attend our March event to learn more about new plans for job classifications.

At the March sessions (March 17th at 1pm and March 24th at 4pm), we will be asking attendees to provide input into the plans for updating the career ladder by taking part in a formal evaluation. Don’t miss out – be informed! Keep an eye out for the LMS invitation to the March events.

**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 who 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.*