



April 2024 Newsletter

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Congratulations to our new CFRA Certificants!

Name	Institution
Amy Field	Leland Stanford Junior University
Abbey Anderson	Clemson University
Alejandro Pinto	University of Florida
Barbara Jones	University of Mississippi Medical Center
Tiffany Barnes	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Doris Fowler	Northwest Florida State College
Evgeniia Kagrananova	Northeastern University
Gina Cofield	Clemson University
James Sandoval	University of Alaska
Johna Belling	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Judith McBroom	Wichita State University
Kallie Firestone	MIT
Katie Wood	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Kerry Drapala	Harvard Medical School
Kimberly Welp	Metropolitan State University of Denver
Laken Adams-Clay	Kentucky Department for Public Health
Lennard Wahlberg	Endeavor Health
Mirtha Delvalle	Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York
Maegan McKerrow	Sam Houston State University
Connie Motoki	Washington University in St. Louis
Michal Woodbridge	Vassar College
Sarah Balas	Clemson University
Mallory Snyder	UMKC
Susan Richardson	The Jackson Laboratory
Sylvia Campos	City of Hope
Tamara Ginter	Texas Tech University
Wesley Wright	Morehouse School of Medicine

Congratulations to our new

CPRA Certificants!

Name	Institution
Deborah Blaisdell	University of Missouri-Columbia
Erica Carpenter	The Pennsylvania State University, College of Medicine
Mirtha Delvalle	Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York
Cynthia Dickson	Loma Linda University Health
Melissa Emanus	SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
Pamela Ivey	George Mason University
Lee Jaramillo	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Amy Korhonen	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Rhonda Shaffer	Pennsylvania State University
Michelle Venezia	Stevens Institute of Technology
Tamaira Lyons	Emory University

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 the Calendar** to see upcoming events such as review sessions, conferences, and meetings

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

All I Needed to Know About Research Administration I Learned from Judy Blume

Suzanne Alstadt, DPA, CRA, CPRA

As a child, I loved to read Judy Blume books. I fell into the world of Margaret, Peter Hatcher, Fudge, Sally J. Freidman, and a host of others. One of my favorites was (and still is) *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great*. Sheila is one of those characters who, on the outside, is fearless, bossy, and an expert on every subject. Internally, she is full of fears – scared of dogs, spiders, and swimming – which she masks with a bevy of excuses. She is allergic to dogs, and she has, of course, been a champion swimmer since the age of two.



At a summer arts camp, Sheila has a brilliant idea – a camp newspaper! And to

show the kids at camp that she is an expert in something, she will be in charge of everything. The camp director, counselors, and Sheila's friends are also excited about the idea and suggest she form committees to complete this big job. Her best friend Mouse is especially interested in being a reporter.

"...we can work together," Mouse said. "We can be a team."

Sheila replies "It's *my* idea and *I'm* doing everything!"

For the rest of the week, Sheila spends all her time on the newspaper's first edition titled "Newsdate by Sheila the Great." She hikes alone around the hot and dusty campground looking for story ideas. Later she is stuck inside with only the camp secretary using antiquated equipment to crank out the copies. All the while her friends are enjoying their favorite activities. Together.

As research administrators, we are faced with situations where it seems easier or safer to do things ourselves rather than rely on the help of others. We may think it is more efficient to complete a project and not have to explain the intricacies of the process to someone else. Some of us are self-proclaimed control freaks who experience intense anxiety at the thought of relinquishing the "boss" role. We would rather be alone, exhausted, and dusty, gripping tightly than surrender our hold. What if the project fails because we give the reigns to another person? What if our brilliant idea is a disaster because we trusted others to help, and they fell short?

"Newsdate by Sheila the Great" is distributed, and the prize-winning puzzle Sheila created is solved by Nate and Paul. Their prize? Ownership of the newspaper. Their approach is quite different from Sheila's: happy to let other people help, they form committees, assign reporters, the camp secretary volunteers to make copies of the newspaper, and very rarely miss their favorite activities. Sheila's conclusion?

"Some people really take the easy way out!"

What would happen if we, taking the Nate and Paul approach, trusted our colleagues to help us? What if we assemble committees, give them the resources they need, and let them do their jobs? Research administration is about teamwork, and about trusting ourselves and our teammates. Certainly, there is a massive amount of arduous work involved, but that work is made lighter when shared by many capable hands. When the work is done, we still have time to enjoy our favorite activities – like re-reading a favorite childhood book.

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!

Last year I had a PI who ordered an espresso machine, and she wanted to use funds from her RO1. I asked if she could provide a justification for those items on her RO1, thinking that she mistakenly put that as the account to be charged. She responded back with the explanation that the espresso machine was to be used for making microbial media. More specifically, her lab obtained pigeon guano from breeders, which is fairly chunky, and they boil the chunks in water, then filter the chunks using the espresso machine, and then

extract it through a sterilizing filter (which would clog immediately if they did not have the espresso machine to filter the chunks) and use that for growing the fungi to use for making microbial media.

I made a mental note to never accept an offer of an espresso from her lab. :)
B. Stowell, CRA, University of Utah

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](#).

Susanne MacDonald

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

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

Find vital information regarding recertification [HERE](#)

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](#)



Employment Opportunities

[View All Job Postings](#)

Contact us to post employment opportunities on the RACC website.

Newsletter Subscriptions

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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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Research Administrators Certification Council | 12110 N Pecos Street, #220 | Westminster, CO 80234 US

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