Welcome! Thank you for joining us. The workshop will begin shortly.

Please check that you are on mute and your video is off.

This workshop will be recorded.
My Research Applications & Agreements (MRA) Renewal Initiative

June 28, 2021, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
2021 Workshop Series

Presenters:

- Robert Dirstein, Project Manager/Analyst, Information Technology Services
- Peter Schwarz-Lam, Business Process Integration Manager, Division of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation (VPRI)
- Safa Faidi, Service Engagement Coordinator, VPRI
Land Acknowledgement

"I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land."
Access Check

Access is a shared responsibility between everyone in this workshop.

• Is there anything (presenter screen, sound) that may affect your participation in this session?

• For any other general access issues, please use the Zoom chat to send a private chat message to Alexandra Candib
Outcomes

During this session, you will:

• Learn about the changes coming to MRA
• Know where to find more information about the MRA renewal initiative
• Learn about opportunities to become involved in this initiative
Agenda

- Evolution of U of T Research Administrative Systems
- MRA Renewal Initiative
- Renewed MRA System Demo
- Useful Resources
- Q&A
Participant Poll

Which of the following MRA roles apply to you? (results)

1. Principal Investigator 7%
2. Principal Investigator Assistant 18%
3. Divisional Approver 6%
4. University Approver 10%
5. Business Officer 40%
6. Other 27%
7. I don’t currently use MRA 11%
Research Funding Life Cycle

- Search for Funding
- Apply for Funding
- Manage Award

- Funding Opportunities Database
- Pivot
- Research Alerts
- Data Analytics
- R&I Dashboards

- My Research Applications & Agreements (MRA)
- SIG System
- My Research Animal Protocol (MRAP)
- My Research Human Protocol (MRHP)

My Research On Line (MROL)
My Research

- My Research On Line (MROL)
- My Research Animal Protocol (MRAP)
- My Research Human Protocol (MRHP)
- My Research Applications & Agreements (MRA)
  - Research Funding Applications ➤ 28,000 applications since 2013
  - Non-Funded Research Agreements ➤ 1,400 applications since 2019
The Evolution of My Research

Front end processes rely on paper

Research Admin Improvements & Systems Enhancement (RAISE)

SIG System 2000
MROL 2001
MRA 2013
MRAP 2015
MRAP 2013
MRA – Non Funded 2019
MRHP 2017
Enterprise Modernization Program
MRA Renewal 2021

Division of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation
The Evolution of Funding Applications

The way we were

The way we are

The way we will be
U of T Enterprise Modernization Program

• Upgrading all systems to the latest SAP technology to provide consistent, intuitive and streamlined user experience.

HR systems
Finance System
Research System
Database
Participant Poll

I find the current MRA’s… (results)
1. interface not adaptive to my screen and the double scroll bars are hard for navigation 59%
2. application error notifications unclear and easy to miss 34%
3. funding application long and time consuming 21%
4. subsections hard to navigate and confusing 43%
5. lack of mobile friendliness frustrating 21%
6. current features and functions perfect 12%
Identifying Our End-User Needs

• We consulted with key stakeholders through user consultation sessions to gather requirements for the new solution.

18 User Consultation Sessions

50+ Participants

Principal Investigators
University Approvers
Divisional Approvers
Business Officers
What Can End-Users Look Forward To?

- Modernized and adaptive user interface (mobile friendlier!)
- Detailed application error notifications
- Streamlined MRA form
- Improved system performance (faster response times, fewer time-outs)
- Integrated SSHRC Institutional Grants (SIG) and other block grant management tools
SIG/Block Grant Management Tools

- The current SIG system operates on outdated technology and is difficult to support
- Rolling it into MRA makes for a consistent and modernized process
- This new tool is anticipated to extend to other block grants in the future
**Project Roadmap**

**Outreach Roadshow**

- **User Testing Sessions**
- **Pre-launch Comms**

**Launch Promotion**

**Post-launch Support**

**SIG/ Block Grants (estimated launch: March 2022)**

- Outreach
- Testing
- Development
- Projected Launch (Renewed MRA)
Renewed MRA System Demo

Please refer to the video recording for the demo
After the renewed MRA goes live:

• Users can complete applications that are in progress in the old system but any new applications will have to be done in the new system

• Migration of all existing applications to the new system will take place after the launch date (stay tuned for additional details!)
Participant Poll

Which of the new MRA features we covered today do you think you'll find useful?

Please type your answer in the chat!
User Testing Opportunities

- Users were invited to participate in our testing sessions to validate the functionality of the new MRA system

13 User Testing Sessions

20+ Participants
Resources

My Research Applications & Agreements (MRA) Renewal Initiative

Information on:

• Workshops & training opportunities
• User testing sessions
• Launch date and key launch communication
# Resources

## VPRI Contact

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>For MRA Renewal Initiative Inquiries</th>
<th>For Technical Inquiries About MRA Submissions</th>
</tr>
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Questions?
Still Have Questions?

Contact Us:
• https://research.utoronto.ca/contact-us
Feedback, please!
Thank you for participating!