Hello there, and welcome to Issue 3 of VPRAD Voice!

We raised a (symbolic) toast to our Cohort 32 participants during our virtual graduation ceremony in early January. We welcomed over 80 attendees and were so honored that so many in the VUMC community turned up to support our graduates.

To view our esteemed Top Bananas for Cohort 32, please take a look at Page 2 of this issue.

Lastly, we have a bittersweet (but exciting!) announcement for VPRAD in 2022. Please take a look at the bottom left corner of this page for more info. While we will miss our classroom time this year, we’re excited to present a re-vamped and updated curriculum for 2023!
VIRTUAL VISIT:
Deep Dive Into eSMART and eStar Data
In response to demand, we're thrilled to offer our first Virtual Visit open to the greater VUMC community:
*A Deep Dive Into eSMART and eStar Data* with Chris Pua and Scott Perkins, Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

To register for this session, please search 'Virtual Visit - Deep Dive Into eSMART and eStar Data' in the Learning Exchange.

TOP BANANA RECIPIENTS
Cohort 32:
Most Curious: Jim Bihun & Jess Lai
Early Bird: Sylvia Jones & Cynthia Williams
Highest Exam Grade: Katherine Reeves
Top Virtual Visitor: Emma Sanderlin
Outstanding VPRADer: Sarah Jones
VPRAD Champion: Doris Head

ALUMNI spotlight
GALYN MARTIN, COHORT 32
What is your role in research at VUMC and can you give a brief background about how you got there?
Just over a year ago, I started working in research administration as a grants manager. Although I've been at VU/VUMC for 19 years, I quickly discovered that research administration is very different from my previous work. Over time (not all [of] it at Vanderbilt), I have been a writer, editor, program coordinator, and program director. I've both reviewed grant proposals as a sponsor and applied for them as a grantee. All of that comes into play now in my work as a grants manager, but I still had a lot to learn.

How has your perspective of research changed after completing VPRAD?
VPRAD helped me understand the big picture when it comes to research administration and how meaningful our work is. I realized we take some of the burden off of researchers, freeing them up to think creatively, notice connections others might have missed, and hopefully achieve breakthroughs that might cure COVID, cancer, or even the common cold.

Was there a memorable session or speaker during your cohort, and what made it/them memorable?
The session about the lifecycle of a sponsored project was very informative. I’m a grants manager, and a fairly new one at that, so my work has primarily focused on pre-award details. I like to have a full-grasp of the process, and this was very helpful. I also really enjoyed the session about research misconduct, though it was also sad to think about the terrible impact the misconduct had upon research subjects, science, and the institutions themselves.

What would you tell someone who is considering taking VPRAD?
If you are new to research administration at VUMC, I would *highly* recommend VPRAD—even if you have worked here a long time in a different area. The program helps fill in knowledge gaps and introduces you to the offices and people that make things run. Additionally, you will get to know some of your cohort—even in virtual sessions—and those connections can make a difference. Although my cohort ended a few weeks ago, I emailed a small group of them with a question and had my answer very quickly. Within this very large institution, VPRAD creates a community of friends and colleagues, which makes work a better place.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR *VPRAD VOICE*? EMAIL VPRAD@VUMC.ORG!