

International Research Collaborations Update

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GUIRR Meeting
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THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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Follow on Activities from July 26-27, 2010
Workshop

Publications

- NCURA *Magazine*, Sept-Oct 2010 (in print)
 - <http://www.ncura.us/Magazine/SeptOct2010.pdf>
- Sandy Titus, DHHS ORI *Newsletter* (Jan. 2011)
- James Casey, *Dayton Law Review* (Feb. 2011)
- Kathie Olsen (APLU), *NCURA Magazine* (March-April 2011)
- Workshop proceeding still under development (for Spring 2011)

Testimonials from Workshop Attendees

Dr. Maria Velez de Berliner (President, Latin Intelligence Corporation):

In a global world, international research collaboration is the keystone of scientific progress without which sustainable development can't be achieved. The depth and breadth of the GUIRR workshop gave participants hands-on experience on how to enter into and benefit from collaboration with foreign counterparts. The workshop on economic, political, cultural, and social risks and how to overcome them, and the discussion on legal implications of “cross-border” research gave participants the knowledge they need to collaborate safely and effectively to their benefit and the benefit of their countries.

Testimonials from Workshop Attendees

Rafic Makki (Executive Director and interim Executive Director of Higher Education, Abu Dhabi Education Council):

This was a meeting about how to build stronger international research collaboration. For me and my organization, the meeting has directly resulted in exactly that!

Coming all the way from Abu Dhabi, I was looking forward to an engaging meeting and one that I can learn from to help Abu Dhabi build stronger collaborative bridges with the international research community. The meeting exceeded my high expectations. The meeting had the two essential ingredients of a successful meeting: well organized and participants who are truly distinguished and very relevant to the topics of discussion. I very much liked the format of the meeting, especially the breakout sessions.

I have followed and developed relationships with several of the participants. We are exchanging ideas and learning from each other. For example, Abu Dhabi has learned a great deal from the development of Singapore over the last 20 years. Since the meeting, I have been in close contact with Prof . Low Teck, who spoke at the meeting, to see how we can collaborate as we build Abu Dhabi's scientific research ecosystem. We are also working with SRC along the same dimensions and my discussions with Celia were very informative.

The breakout sessions were excellent. There was a free flow of brainstorming and debate that led to very interesting recommendations.

Testimonials from Workshop Attendees

Miriam Kelty (National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health (retired)):

The workshop content made me realize how difficult it may be for U.S. PIs to work in international environments if they do not understand the differences in societal infrastructure and institutional structures. I expect that few U.S. investigators consider that the political climate of the countries with which they are working might impact on their scientific collaborations. The importance of understanding goals and incentives of collaborators, as well as any constraints they are under, can affect research activities. The recommendations to avoid such difficulties were invaluable.

The combination of formal presentations and break-out discussion groups was well planned and helpful. The break-out groups gave participants a chance to raise issues and discuss them. My group on responsible conduct noted that the training in that area here does not prepare researchers to work internationally, nor does it serve U.S. investigators to work with foreign scientists who come to the U.S. Without an understanding of their expectations about how science is conducted, we should not assume that we all adhere to the same best practices.

The workshop was an excellent first discussion of an area that merits a lot more attention than it has received. I hope that by giving it more attention we will prevent some of the questionable and bad behavior reported in the scientific and popular press that challenges the public's trust in science.

Questions?