



MCG's Division of Sponsored Program Administration is developing a comprehensive certificate training program entitled Research Administration Certification and Education (RACE). RACE is being designed to meet the research needs of the Medical College of Georgia by offering an improved understanding of regulations, policies and procedures. RACE will also provide staff access to important resources and contacts for further assistance. "It is important for an institution of our size to have a training program in place so that members of the research community, their support staff and regulatory divisions will have a better working relationship" said Wendy Arbuckle, Director of Post Award Services.

Drawing on the collaborative resources of the Division of Sponsored Program Administration Pre-Award and Post-Award Services, the finance department, Department Administrators, Business Managers, and Administrative Assistants from across MCG, RACE will offer quarterly breakfasts and a certificate program for the entire research community. RACE breakfasts will serve as networking sessions where the MCG research community will be able to discuss hot topics and issues developing in their areas. The certificate program will cover important sponsored award processes. It will be comprised of a set of core classes which will include information such as Proposal Development, Basic Budgets and Research Compliance, as well as electives that will delve deeper into the core areas such as Clinical Trials, NIH and Training Grants.

A core team has been put together to assist in the development of the curriculum and class content. The majority of this team will also be the "pilot" class for RACE to begin in January, 2009. After completing the program, this group will fine-tune it for others. DSPA is currently taking applicants for its first formal class of RACE set to begin September, 2009. It will offer its graduates an expertise in the field of research administration as well as demonstrate their commitment to advancing the University's research profile.

We expect RACE will improve the sponsored award process at MCG, training both the researchers and personnel who support them in the grant application and awards administration process. Through RACE we should be able to minimize procedural errors, increase the number of personnel qualified to administer research grants and build MCG's reputation as a University that achieves the goals set forth in its proposals. "This should increase communication as well as compliance," Arbuckle said. "With an improvement in these areas the researchers at MCG should experience a smoother process in the development and management of their awards."

For more information about the RACE program or to apply for the fall, 2009 session contact Kerry Cartledge at kcartledge@mcg.edu or 706-721-8239.