

USC Faculty and Staff:

I am happy to say that we now have an additional research tool available within the TARA system:

- **Effort Certification:** a new system for certifying effort devoted to sponsored projects has replaced legacy systems.

Effort certification supplements these previous applications:

- **iStar for Human Subjects:** submission and management of IRB research protocols.
- **iStar for Biosafety:** submission and management of biosafety research protocols.
- **iStar for Radiation Safety:** submission and management of radiation safety research protocols.
- **iStar for IACUC:** submission and management of animal research protocols
- **diSClose:** submission and management of disclosures related to conflicts of interest
- **CORES:** single statement billing, financial management and reservations for more than 30 shared core research laboratories
- **Sophia:** intellectual property management, including simplified portal for disclosing and tracking inventions, material transfer agreements and confidential disclosure agreements related to intellectual property.
- **Kuali Coeus Post-Award:** establishment of funded sponsored project awards, including the availability of referenced award documents.
- **FIPS:** financial projection system to analyze alternative scenarios for existing research awards.

These tools are all accessible today to the university community from the TARA portal:

<https://kc.usc.edu/kc-prd/portal.do>

Documentation for TARA can be found here:

<https://research.usc.edu/usc-research-administration-system/>

The focus of the TARA project continues to be on enhancements along with completion of the three remaining TARA components:

- **Kuali Coeus (KC) Pre-award:** proposal budgeting, submission and routing. KC pre-award has completed its initial pilot project with Annenberg, Architecture, Pharmacy and Social Work.

Training is now well underway with the School of Dentistry and the Keck School of Medicine for the deployment of KC pre-award throughout the Health Science Campus, by August.

KC pre-award will be deployed throughout the University Park campus between August and November, and at ISI and ICT toward the end of this calendar year.

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- **Negotiation Tracker:** As a tool within KC, the negotiation tracker will facilitate tracking the status of contract negotiations, and making information visible to faculty and school staff, and will be deployed this fall.
- **Contracts and Grants Billing:** this tool automates billing to research sponsors by Sponsored Projects Accounting, and will be deployed in August.

With respect to enhancements, the emphasis will be on: (1) implementing system-to-system interfaces to minimize the need for data re-entry when moving between different university systems and to expedite the submission of proposals to grants.gov; and (2) improving budgeting and access to financial information. We are also working to improve the process for assigning identities when needed for non-USC employees. These enhancements will complete the TARA project as originally planned.

As mentioned previously, TARA will be supplemented over the next year by two new systems.

- **The EH&S Assistant:** will enhance and simplify safety management through a single repository of radiological, chemical and fire safety information. It will include real-time chemical inventory information, management of waste pick-ups, and provide access to lab inspection results.
- **Clinical Trials Management:** The Keck Medical Center, the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, CHLA and the provost office have agreed to jointly fund the acquisition of a CTMS, which supports the execution of clinical trials, including budgeting, coverage analysis, patient registration and tracking and invoicing. Support has also been committed to implement a software module to track specimens stored in biorepositories. The CTMS project begins this month.

In addition, the Office of Research is working with the Clinical and Translational Science Institute to create a training portal, offering an on-line guide for faculty, staff and students on how to fulfill training requirements based on the type of research they conduct.

Thank you for your patience as we continue toward launching the final pieces of TARA.

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