Greetings from the Executive Director | Laura Knight Lynn

Dear Colleagues,

It is truly an exciting time for the Center for Research Quality (CRQ) and the university. Enhanced focus and investment in doctoral education mean opportunities to provide the support necessary for new research and scholarship and quality assurance for our doctoral capstones.

In 2015, we have continued to expand our services dedicated to supporting faculty and student research quality and skill development, including enhanced services to all doctoral students from the very beginning of their program to beyond its completion. Two exciting examples of these initiatives, highlighted in this issue, include:

- Student office hours for IRB, abstracts development, and methodology support.
- Expanded availability of the New Scholars Workshop.

Additionally, the CRQ group is growing to fit with our mission of research support and quality assurance, and we are happy to introduce one of our newest members, Deborah Inman, who will be serving as Interim Director of Quality Assurance.

Looking ahead, we will be providing more information about our Doctoral Capstone Resources website, which was soft-launched last month, in an upcoming issue of re: Research. In the meantime, I encourage you to review the site and provide feedback. This resource is designed to support students, at all phases of the process, in understanding and making progress on their dissertation or doctoral study. After providing additional updates based on feedback, we will be announcing this resource to students in August.

We hope you enjoy this issue and please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions at crq@waldenu.edu.

Sincerely,

Laura Knight Lynn
Welcome from Our New Interim Director

I am truly excited to be part of the Center for Research Quality – such an incredible team working collaboratively to meet the research quality needs for faculty and students.

My responsibilities will include managing the University Research Review (URR) process, My Doctoral Research (MyDR) support, methodology advising services, and all research curriculum and training. As you know, we are always in the midst of exciting innovations within our various doctoral programs, and I look forward to supporting you and working with you.

Deborah Inman, EdD
Interim Director of Research Quality Management

Announcing Office Hours

The Center for Research Quality is now providing office hours to answer student questions about the research process. Office hours provide an informal, drop-in setting—in a group advising format—where students may ask questions and receive advice about writing abstracts, planning research ethics, and designing or conducting qualitative or quantitative dissertation or doctoral study research. Office hours are conducted via Adobe Connect.

Abstract Assistance Office Hours

Writing the abstract can be a challenging task, given the brevity of the one-page document, the requirement to include so much detail within it, and the necessity of getting the Chief Academic Officer’s (CAO’s) approval on it in order for graduation to commence.

Office hours are available for students who would like a little extra assistance on writing an abstract that meets university requirements. All students are welcome to attend, but students nearing the end of their dissertation or doctoral study will benefit most.

Annie Pezalla, the CAO designee, will facilitate the session. Depending on the number of attendees, students may have the opportunity to share a draft of their work or ask a question.

Please refer students to Abstract Advice Office Hours for Students for dates and times, as they are announced.
Quantitative Methodology Advice Office Hours

Doctoral students are welcome to visit the Quantitative Methodology Office Hours with for assistance with planning or conducting a quantitative study. Common questions may include research questions/hypotheses, quantitative research designs, sample size and power analysis, data collection methods/instrumentation, data analysis methods, and statistics reporting.

**Sunny Liu** and **Matt Jones** are quantitative methodology advisors in the Center for Research Quality. They will respond to student questions about designing or conducting a quantitative study.

Qualitative Methodology Advice Office Hours

Doctoral students are welcome to visit the Qualitative Methodology Office Hours with for assistance with planning or conducting a qualitative study. Common questions may include developing qualitative research questions, qualitative research designs, participant selection, data collection methods, data analysis methods, and writing up qualitative results.

**Marydee Spillett** is Associate Director and Qualitative Methodology Advisor in the Center for Research Quality. She will respond to student questions about designing or conducting a qualitative study.

Please refer students to [Methodology Advice Office Hours for Students](#) for dates and times of both qualitative quantitative AND advising office hours, as they are announced.

IRB Office Hours

The IRB provides office hours to assist students with planning the research ethics for their studies and exploring solutions to ethical challenges in doctoral research. Participating in the IRB Office Hours may pave the way for a smoother IRB review.

A faculty IRB member will help students brainstorm solutions to ethical challenges in conducting research, including setting up partnerships with sites, recruiting participants, establishing different ways to obtain and document consent, minimizing risks for participants, maintaining data privacy, managing dual roles and
possible conflicts of interest, and sharing results with stakeholders.

Please refer students to IRB Office Hours for days and times, as they are announced.

**CRQ Programming at the 2015 Summer Meeting** | Daniel Salter

At each of the semi-annual faculty meetings and graduations, the CRQ provides programming for individuals in attendance at these events. Here’s a preview of the upcoming programs in July in National Harbor, Maryland.

**Faculty Development Session**

*Walden’s Doctoral Capstone Resources Site*

From the start of their programs, many doctoral students have anxiety and confusion about completing their capstone study, and those feelings only increase in intensity throughout their programs. At Walden University, we have a wealth of information to help students through the capstone, but that information is dispersed across departments and is sometimes difficult for students to find. To address these challenges, Walden’s executive leadership, along with center- and program-based leadership, have embarked on a doctoral capstone resources site to help provide guidance and insight to doctoral students on the nature of the dissertation and doctoral study. This site, which launched in April of 2015, includes information on what a dissertation/doctoral study is, what the requirements are for these capstones, the resources for capstone and related skill development, recommendations for what students can do throughout their doctoral program to prepare and develop plans, and program-based information in specific tabs. The purpose of this presentation will be to explain the development and scope of this website, share the content within it, encourage the socialization of this website to your students, and welcome feedback on its continual refinement.

**Presenters:** Lisa Raymond, Annie Pezalla, and Laura Lynn

**Research Symposium**

A Walden University tradition for several years, the Research Symposium highlights research by selected members of the academic community using two different formats. The **poster** format gives researchers a chance to engage with all individuals attending the symposium and to network with other interested researchers. The presenters for the 48 posters at this symposium included individual faculty and research teams, as well as many of our graduates.
Using a **roundtable** format, three groups of researchers were available for interactive discussions of their work, which extend the theme introduced in January’s Research Colloquium: *Creative Solutions to Research Challenges*. We will also be hosting a Meet & Greet with the editors of our five Walden-sponsored academic journals and representatives for the RDS Program, ScholarWorks, and the IRB. Questions? researchsymposium@waldenu.edu

**New Scholars Workshop**

With the support of the Alumni Relations office, we will be offering two sections of the New Scholars Workshop (NSW) for new graduates, just prior to the university faculty meeting and graduation. The NSW was created to be an interactive experience to support the research dissemination efforts of our newest scholars. **Tammy Root, Annie Pezalla, Vince Fortunato**, and I will be facilitating the 4-hour workshop. Participants will explored the various venues and audiences for their scholarship, crafted specific strategies for sharing their capstone findings, and developed some plans to continue their work as a scholar. Questions? NSW@waldenu.edu

**Walden University Participant Pool** | Jenny Sherer

Did you know that the Walden University participant pool is available to undergraduate and Master’s students, enabling them to learn more about the research being done at the university? For students considering matriculating into a doctoral program, visiting the site can be a great opportunity to learn about research being done in their field of interest. It can also present students with limited research experience insight into what research is like and perhaps remove some of the mystery about what it entails.

With almost 30 studies posted, the site includes a wide range of research being done by both students and faculty representing various programs. Whether just visiting the site, serving as a research participant, or obtaining insight that could assist with their own research ideas, the participant pool can serve as a valuable introduction to research for students in any program.

Additional information about the Participant Pool is available on the [Center for Research Quality website](http://walden.sonasystems.com), or please direct any questions to participantpool@waldenu.edu. The site can be accessed directly at: http://walden.sonasystems.com.
COS Pivot: A Search Tool for Identifying Research Grant Opportunities

Molly Lauck

COS Pivot (Community of Science Pivot) is a searchable research database made available free of charge to Walden University faculty, staff, and students who are looking for funding opportunities to support research. The database includes grant opportunities from private foundations and organizations as well as state and federal research institutes and agencies. No research project is too small as the database covers large ($500,000), multi-year grants to small (less than $1000), shorter duration grants. Additionally, the database offers "one-stop shopping" for managing research funding searches, identifying current research conducted by others in the field of study (both internal and external to Walden University), and identifies possible venues for publishing and presenting research. Training resources for navigating the website are also provided.

The COS Pivot link is located under External Funding: Research Funding Search Tools on the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs page of the CRQ website. Please contact grants@waldenu.edu with questions about COS Pivot or research funding in general.

Staff Profile: Mary Deering | Office of Student Research Administration

Mary Deering has been working for Walden University for approximately one year. She received a BA in Communications and Journalism from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, OH. During her time off, Mary enjoys spending time with family and friends, outdoor activities, music, and traveling.

Mary began at Walden University as a Reporting and Data Processing Specialist, but has recently moved into a Research Program Intervention Coordinator role. Mary provides support to students and faculty as they work through the capstone process. She will also be handling several new programs, including DIT, DSW, DHA, and DrPH.

Mary has also recently begun helping students and faculty work through the MyDR system. She has enjoyed answering questions regarding the new system, and giving directions to help make the process easier and more understandable for all using it. If there were one aspect of MyDR that she would like to ensure
everyone understands, it would be automated versus manual emails in TaskStream.

**Automated versus Manual Emails in MyDR**

TaskStream is a component of the MyDR system where the student’s work is evaluated and feedback is archived. It has eliminated the need for many manual (user-generated) emails, and in turn, sends out automated (system-generated) emails to help simplify the process. Faculty must remember that TaskStream has not eliminated the need for all manual emails, however.

For example, when a student submits a document for committee review, the chair and second member will receive an automated email from workflow@laureate.net. The chair should be the first member to complete this review and then should email the second member to log in and complete the review (as TaskStream does not do this task automatically). After completing the review, the second member must email the chair back. At that time, the chair will be able to log in and complete the reconciliation. If all is approved during the reconciliation, TaskStream automatically sends an email from workflow@laureate.net notifying the URR member that a document is waiting for review. To properly complete reconciliation, please visit: [Committee Chair Reconciliation of Committee Rubric Scores](#) for instructions.

The URR member will always know when a review is waiting in TaskStream because as soon as the chair completes the reconciliation, an automated email from workflow@laureate.net is sent. Therefore, URR members do not need to complete any reviews in TaskStream until they receive this email.

If there are ever any questions regarding emails in MyDR, such as understanding when system-generated emails are sent or user-generated emails are necessary, please visit: [Automatic vs. Manual Emailing During the Prospectus Stage within the MyDR System](#)

If you need to contact Mary, please do so at [Mary.Deering@waldenu.edu](mailto:Mary.Deering@waldenu.edu).