**Seminar - Building a Project Management Office to Support Collaborative Research Projects**

**Annual Meeting of the Society of Research Administrators (SRA) International, Vancouver, Canada**

**16th October 2017**

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**Abstract**

This session will provide insights from the establishment of Imperial College’s PMO, which was formed to provide project management for collaborative research projects across Imperial.

The PMO is an organizational unit that originally found prominence in technology companies but we have applied this management approach to a university organization in order to improve the efficiency and quality of project support we can provide to academic teams. This includes pre-award and proposal support as well as post-award project management, which is relevant to research administrators involved in sponsored programs.

The PMO approach allows best practice, standardized tools and techniques and a dedicated service to be provided so that complex and often international collaborative projects are successfully delivered. The session will identify lessons learnt from our journey to set up the PMO at Imperial, including the management structures, resources, processes and system aspects.

**Learning objectives**

* Participants will understand the benefits that a PMO can provide to support pre-award and post-award activities for collaborative research projects.
* Participants will know how to set up a PMO to manage research projects, including the organizational structure, resourcing, processes, and systems considerations.

**Bio**

Over 20 years’ experience in managing research projects and programmes, including 13 years at Imperial College London and 9 years at the UK Ministry of Defence. Currently head up Imperial’s Programme Management Office (PMO), which provides project management for many major international collaborative research projects across Imperial. Expertise in the design and delivery of high value and high-profile collaborative research initiatives, including helping to set up Imperial’s Institute of Shock Physics and the Sustainable Gas Institute. Experience in financial and commercial management at universities, business planning, project management, strategic decision-making, design and implementation of complex governance arrangements for high profile projects. Managed research, technology and engineering projects across many countries in Europe and also in Russia, UAE, Qatar and USA. Recently led the formation of Imperial College Projects Limited, which is a new subsidiary company for Imperial and I currently serve as its founding Chairman. Education includes a PhD in chemistry and MBA. Fellow at the Royal Society of Chemistry and currently Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Business, Economics and Informatics at Birkbeck, University of London and International Director for the American Society for Engineering Management (ASEM). Previously served for 6 years as a Visiting Fellow at Imperial College Business School. Over 40 peer reviewed publications (journal and conference proceedings) in areas such as university-industry research collaboration, research management, project management, and chemistry. Presented and given keynote speeches at many conferences across North America, Asia and Europe. Recipient of the Rod Rose Best Paper Award and Best Annual Symposium Paper Award from SRAI. Plus the Franklin B. W. Woodbury Special Service Award and Merritt A. Williamson Best Paper Award from the American Society for Engineering Management (ASEM).  Currently serve as Editorial Board Member for JRA. In the past I have attended 4 SRAI annual meetings and previously presented 1 concurrent session and 2 symposium papers.