

# Flight Tracker Consortium Meeting

December 4, 2024



[www.edgeforscholars.org](http://www.edgeforscholars.org)

[X @EdgeForScholars](https://twitter.com/EdgeForScholars)

[https://redcap.link/flight\\_tracker](https://redcap.link/flight_tracker)

# Meeting Agenda



Current Version:  
**v6.19.0**

## **What's New?**

New Formats for NIH Training Tables  
Make a Publication List by MeSH Terms  
Find a Collaborator by 5 MeSH Terms & by Keyword

**Deep Dive:** A Discussion about Data Cleaning

## **What's Next?**

More Customizable Mentee-Mentor Agreements [v2.0]  
January is National Mentoring Month



# What's New?

# NIH Training Table Format



- NIH Guidance: NOT-OD-24-129; in effect after January 25, 2025
  - New applications & renewals only!
- [grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/changes-coming-2025](https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/changes-coming-2025)
- Data Table changes:
  - Tables 1 & 2 only for training stage of proposed program
  - Table 5: flip columns – already done
  - Table 6: No characteristics for prior research experiences
  - No more Table 8 Part II [“Friends” table]



# Remade Publication List



- Under Pubs menu → Publication List
- Search by MeSH Terms [up to 3]
- Boxes have been reorganized slightly, but other search criteria remains constant

**Step 1: Customize**

**MeSH Terms to Match**

MeSH Term #1:

Optional MeSH Term #2:

Optional MeSH Term #3:

AND ▾

Re-Configure

[Turn on Altmetrics](#)

Sourced from the Web, altmetrics can tell you a lot about how often journal articles and other scholarly outputs like datasets are discussed and used around the world.

**Show Pubs During Training**

Additional Days After Training:

Re-Configure

**Currently showing all pubs**

[Click to Limit Pubs to After 2014](#)

PubMed's match-quality increased after 2014

**Filter for Timespan**

Start Date:

End Date:

**Sorting**

By Date  By RCR  By Altmetric Score

**Filter for Author Position**

First Author  Middle Author  Last Author

Re-Configure

Cohort: Filter by Grants Cited

**Filter by Word(s) in Title**

(one per line; case-insensitive):

Re-Configure for Title Words

# Find a Collaborator



- PubMed’s keywords are now downloaded into the Citation form
  - Free-text, not organized into categories
- In the Scholar Portal, scholars can search by:
  - These custom keywords
  - MeSH Terms [now up to 5]
- Your Network menu
  - Find a Collaborator

PubMed Keywords to Search for (separated by semicolons):

MeSH Term #1:

Optional MeSH Term #2:

Optional MeSH Term #3:

Optional MeSH Term #4:

Optional MeSH Term #5:

Search MeSH Terms!



# Deep Dive

## Data Cleaning

# Preface



- Definition: Fixing or removing incorrect, incomplete, or irrelevant data from a dataset
- An art, not a science – a human endeavor
- A discussion: I'm interested in **your** ideas & practices
- Necessary due to Flight Tracker's "**greedy**" data collection [*i.e.*, collects slightly more than needed]





# Overview



- **Best Practices:**
  - Ensure Completeness
  - Apply Consistency
  - Names, ORCID IDs & Institutions
- Data Wrangling
- **What to Look for:**
  - Holes: Record Status Dashboard
  - Outliers
  - Surveys: Misspellings & Abbreviations
  - Preprints & No-Cost Extensions



## Ensure Completeness



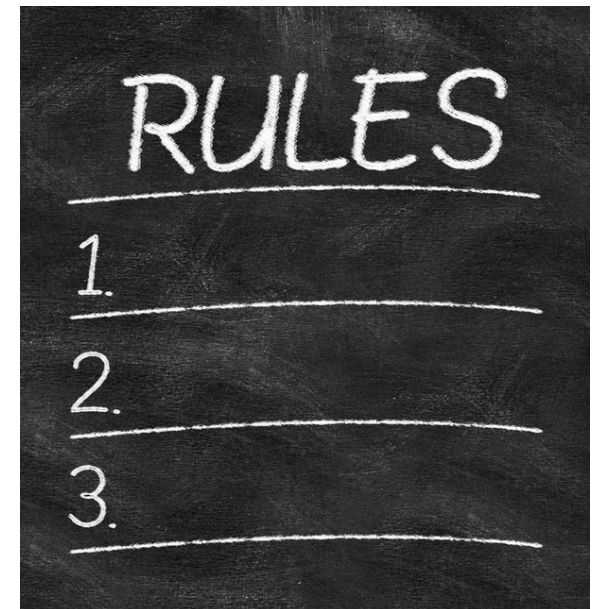
- No gaps or missing pieces in your data
- Flight Tracker provides: Federal grants & PubMed citations
- Match by name & institution – more to come
- **Best practices:**
  - Spot-check a few individuals
    - Search for them at NIH RePORTER, NSF, etc.
    - Search for them in PubMed
    - Look for “missingness”
  - Look at the entire pool of scholars for holes – more to come



## Apply Consistent Rules



- In group cleaning, make sure group follows same rules
- Same terminology & same fixes for problems
- Standardize how your group's data look
- **Best practices:**
  - Keep a small page to preserve rules over time
    - A shared document for a team?
  - One person in charge?



## Names, ORCID & Institutions



- Anytime data are missing consistently for one person, check these three items
- **ORCID:** Wrangle menu → ORCID Wrangler
- **Names:** REDCap Identifiers form [nicknames & maiden names]
- **Institution:** REDCap Position Change form
- **Institutions for Everyone:**  
General menu → Configure Application

ORCID

## Names, ORCID IDs & Institutions



- Check against NIH RePORTER & PubMed & make sure formatting matches
  - You might have to add a publication manually if name incomplete in PubMed
- Click **Fetch Data Now** buttons after attempted fix
- Click **Restart From Scratch** buttons if you got too much data

**When inside a scholar's record, this appears above the menu:**

Fetch Data Now for this Scholar:

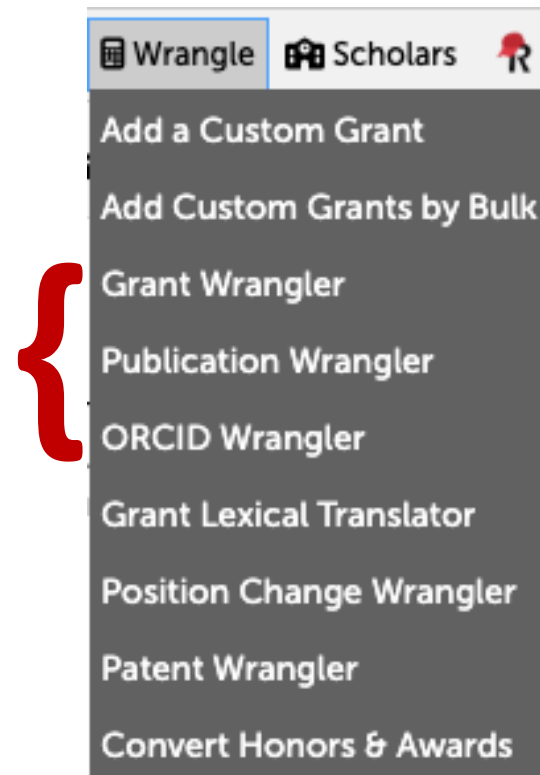
Restart from Scratch for this Scholar:

Match Without Institutions:

# Data Wrangling



- Wrangle menu:
  - Grant Wrangler
  - Publication Wrangler
  - ORCID Wrangler
- These pages can correct mistakes
- Fetching algorithms are not perfect!



# Data Holes



**Project Home and Design**

- Project Home
- Project Setup
- Designer
- Dictionary
- Codebook
- Project status: **Development**

---

**Data Collection**

- Survey Distribution Tools
  - Get a public survey link or build a participant list for inviting respondents
- Record Status Dashboard**
  - View data collection status of all records
- Add / Edit Records
  - Create new records or edit/view existing ones



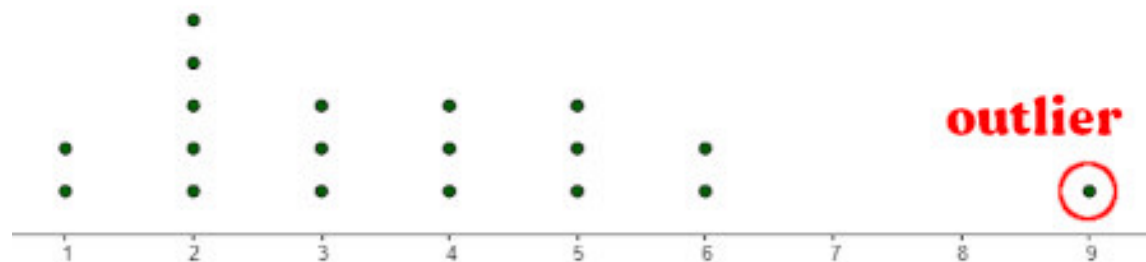
- REDCap → Record Status Dashboard
- **Grey = no data – possible “hole”**
- Especially on Citation & NIH RePORTER forms
- Red is not necessarily bad; it just means that it hasn't been marked as complete [green]

| Identifiers | Manual | Manual Import | Manual Degree  | Summary | Position Change | Pre Screening Survey | Coeus          | Bircwh | Initial Survey | Custom Grant   | Reporter       | Followup       | Exporter       | Citation       | Honors Awards And Activities |
|-------------|--------|---------------|----------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| ●           | ●      | ○             | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●       | ●+<br>●+<br>●+  | ●                    | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●      | ●              | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ○                            |
| ●           | ●      | ○             | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●       | ●+<br>●+<br>●+  | ●                    | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●      | ●              | ○              | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ○              | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ○                            |
| ●           | ●      | ○             | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●       | ●+<br>●+<br>●+  | ●                    | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●      | ●              | ○              | ○              | ○              | ○              | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ○                            |
| ●           | ●      | ○             | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●       | ●+<br>●+<br>●+  | ●                    | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●      | ●              | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ○                            |
| ●           | ●      | ○             | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●       | ●+<br>●+<br>●+  | ●                    | ○              | ●      | ●              | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ○              | ●+<br>●+<br>●+ | ○                            |

# Outliers



- Anytime you see an outlier in Flight Tracker – something that’s abnormally high or low – you should question it
- Figure out what data is causing it to be out of proportion
- Then figure out if that’s reasonable
- Correct in the original REDCap data source if necessary





# Surveys: Misspellings



- Misspellings can wreak havoc when searching for names and institutions – unforgiving
- I correct the misspelling at the original source in REDCap – *i.e.*, directly on the surveys themselves
- The Summary form displays the data source to give you a clue where the data are coming from

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Academic Rank        | <input type="text" value="Associate Professor"/>           |
| Academic Rank Source | <input type="text" value="Followup Survey (self-survey)"/> |

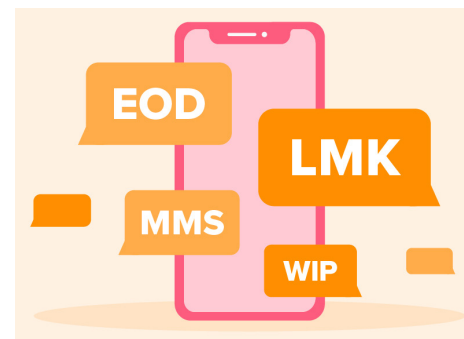
A red arrow points from the 'Academic Rank Source' label to the dropdown menu.



# Abbreviations



- Especially for institutions...
- **The NIH RePORTER & PubMed do not recognize abbreviations like VUMC, UNC, UCLA, etc.!**
- Check the General menu → Configure Application page for your “Short Institution Name”
  - Abbreviations aren’t harmful, but they aren’t helpful either
- Position Change forms
- **\*\*\*Scholar surveys**



# Preprints



- Definition: An early version of an article that is published before being peer-reviewed
- More popular in age of electronic publication
- **Flight Tracker handles these relatively well:**
  - It does not double-count
  - When a paper receives peer-reviewed status, it auto-updates the preprint as omitted & the new paper as accepted
  - Recent versions mark preprints as “[Preprint]” in publication listings, according to federal standards



# No-Cost Extensions



- Flight Tracker is **BAD** about updating no-cost extension data
- There's not an easy way to update this information [yet]
- **Possible manual remedies:**
  - Modify budget & project dates manually
  - Click "Restart From Scratch: Grants" button



## Your Take



**What do you find helpful when cleaning data?  
What's a total waste of time?**

# Recap



- **Best Practices:**
  - Ensure Completeness
  - Apply Consistency
  - Names, ORCID IDs & Institutions
- Data Wrangling
- **What to Look for:**
  - Holes
  - Outliers
  - Misspellings & Abbreviations
  - Preprints & No-Cost Extensions





**What's Next?**

# Mentee-Mentor Agreements v2.0



- Mentee-Mentor Agreements are **central** to everything we do:
  - Support good mentoring practices
  - Collects data on mentoring to evaluate best practices
- New changes will allow program managers & mentors to customize the surveys
  - Custom questions can be asked
  - Questions or sections can be skipped
- New momentum from NIH emphasis on mentorship
- Can give programs a strategic edge in applications





# National Mentoring Month



[www.mentoring.org/campaigns/national-mentoring-month/](http://www.mentoring.org/campaigns/national-mentoring-month/)

The next Flight Tracker meeting on **January 8, 2025**, will be dedicated to software & projects about mentoring



# Flight Tracker Community



## Support Forum

**"Better than Email"** - Ask me for an Account in the Chat

<https://redcap.vumc.org/flightracker/>

A screenshot of the Flight Tracker Community forum page. The header includes the logo, a search bar, a "Create post" button, and a "Spaces" dropdown. The main content area shows a list of posts with details like author, date, topic, and engagement metrics (comments and likes). A sidebar on the right contains a navigation menu for the Edge for Scholars organization.

Welcome to Flight Tracker Community!

All Posts in Flight Tracker Community

| Author                      | Date       | Topic   | Comments | Likes |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|----------|-------|
| jessica.chiovitte commented | 1 day ago  | Getting Started   | 5        | 0     |
| new132s                     |            | Using FT for New T32 Applications (Jump to latest comment)  |          |       |
| scott.pearson commented     | 1 week ago | Tracking Scholars   | 1        | 0     |
| identical names             |            | Identical name at same institution (Jump to latest comment)   |          |       |
| scott.pearson posted        | 1 week ago | New Features  | 0        | 0     |
| honors and awards   survey  |            | Honors & Awards Survey  |          |       |
| kia.huffman commented       | 1 week ago | Getting Started   | 1        | 0     |
| email   module setting      |            | email not sent, make sure "Enable module on all projects by default" is NOT checked. (Jump to latest comment) |          |       |
| scott.pearson commented     | 1 week ago | Wrangling Grants & Pubs   | 3        | 0     |
| publication wrangler        |            | Publication results limited by the "Institutions Searched For" (Jump to latest comment)                       |          |       |

Edge for Scholars navigation menu:

- Home
- Flight Tracker Video Vault
- Mentee-Mentor Agreements
- Getting Started with Flight Tracker
- Next Consortium Meeting & Past Slides
- Newbie Session Agenda
- Edge for Scholars Blog
- Edge for Scholars at Vanderbilt
- X: @EdgeForScholars

# Troubleshooting Call



## Monthly Troubleshooting Call – optional

Third Wednesday at 1pm Central Time  
December 18, 2024

*Driven by Your Questions & Problems*

All are welcome!

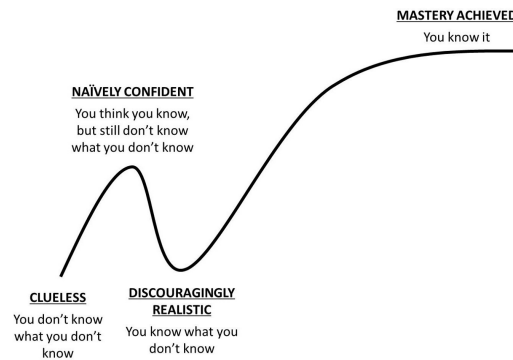
Ask to join our email list in the chat for an invitation...



# Newbie Call



## Just getting started with Flight Tracker?



There's a definite learning curve.  
Move up more quickly by joining  
**December's "newbie" call.**

**Tuesday, December 10, at noon Central Time**  
**(Wednesday, January 15, at 11am Central Time)**

Leave your email in the chat to receive an invitation

# Getting Started Workshop



After each month's newbie call, we're hosting a separate Getting Started Workshop to get the ball rolling on implementation. Questions will center only around starting out. No advanced questions will be discussed.

Our next call will be on **Friday, December 13, at 1pm CT.**

All newbie call participants will be invited.  
Let me know if you want an invitation to the next one.

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