Flight Tracker Consortium Meeting

September 3, 2025

www.edgeforscholars.org

https://redcap.link/flight_tracker

Meeting Agenda

FLIGHT TRACKER *for scholars*

Current Version:
v6.22.0

What's New?
"Leaky Pipeline" Conversation
Soliciting Mentee-Mentor Agreement Partners

Deep Dive: Examples of Using Cohorts

What's Next?
Mentee-Mentor Agreements: Custom Questions in **v6.23.0**
Broadening Fields in Flight Tracker?

What's New?

"Leaky Pipeline" Conversation

- **Focus**: How mentorship practices influence persisting in research & leaving research – *i.e.*, the "leaky pipeline"
- **Done**: We've developed a survey about mentorship practices
- **Doing**: We're refining them currently through feedback
- **Doing**: We're working on measurable outcomes to statistically relate those questions about mentorship
- **Will Do**: We want multiple sites to join our collection efforts for eventual publication
- More to come…

Mentoring Agreement Partners

- Do you want to use the mentee-mentor agreements?
- If so, we are looking for partners on a **study** to correlate mentorship practices to productivity metrics
  - Goal: Find evidence-based best practices of mentorship
- We have data at Vanderbilt, but not enough to meet our needs for the study's power
- **If interested, please let me know your email in the chat!**

Deep Dive

Examples of Using Cohorts

Introduction

- Slicing-and-dicing Flight Tracker data compares sub-groups
- Cohorts have their own menu & show up on graphs
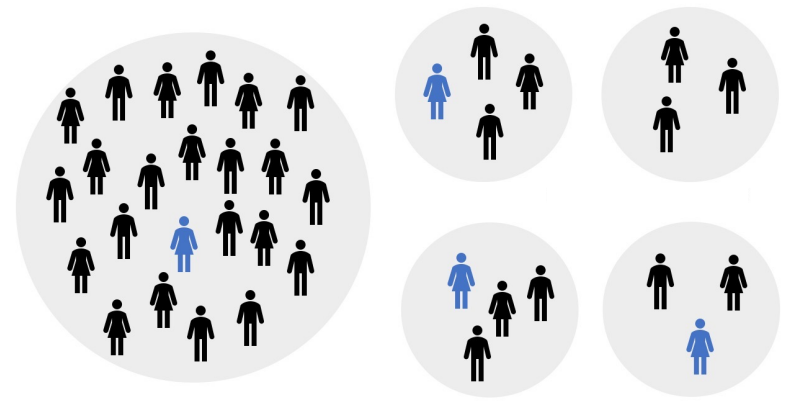- As a limitation, they do **NOT** appear in REDCap Reports

To ignite your imagination, what are some helpful examples of what have been done with cohorts?

Overview

- Demographics
- Grants
- Physician Scientists & PhD Scientists
- Departments & Divisions
- Person Roles & Program Roles
- Combinations with Boolean Logic
- Hand-Picking a Cohort
- **What have you done with cohorts?**

Demographics

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- Date of Birth
- US Citizenship Status
- Start of Training Program
- End of Training Program
- Tenure Status
- Academic Rank
- [More…]

Grants

- Comparing internal funding vs. K12/KL2 recipients vs. externally funded Ks
- Different funding institutes
- Different activity codes
- Different conversion statuses
- Who started on K when [*e.g.*, 2010-2015, 2016-2020]

- [Combinations of the above]

- Award Type [FT type]
- Activity Code [K23, R01, etc.]
- Institute/Center abbreviation
- K/R status

Physician Scientists vs. PhDs

- Historic problem of MD vs. PhD silos – lack of collaboration
  - MD/PhDs as an attempt to overcome restriction
  - Yet many great breakthroughs have come from both sides interacting together!
- Depending on an organization's culture, different career outcomes can happen
  - Different career pathways
  - Different career pressures – funding & clinics
- MD only, MD + PhD, MD + other, PhDs, Other

Departments & Divisions

- Highlighting collaborations between different fields
- Good for diagnosing how **interdisciplinary** your group is
  - Interdisciplinary papers tend to have higher impact factors
- Social Network of Collaborations – between cohorts
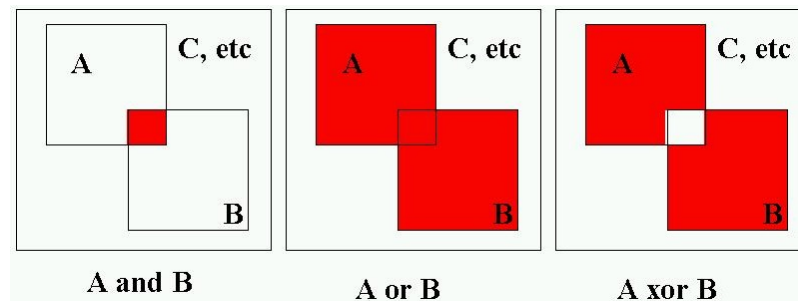
Person Roles & Program Roles

- You configure these items in the Application Configuration page
- They can be entered on the Identifiers form
  - Dropdown = person role [single-select]
  - Checkbox = program role [multi-select]
- *E.g.,*
  - Person role: Faculty, staff, student
  - Person role: Class of 2020, Class of 2021, …
  - Program role: Mentor, PI, faculty, staff, student
- What do different subgroups look like in their profiles?

Boolean Logic

- Precedence: XOR > AND > OR
  - XOR = Exclusive or – one or the other but not both
  - AND = one and the other
  - OR = one or the other or both

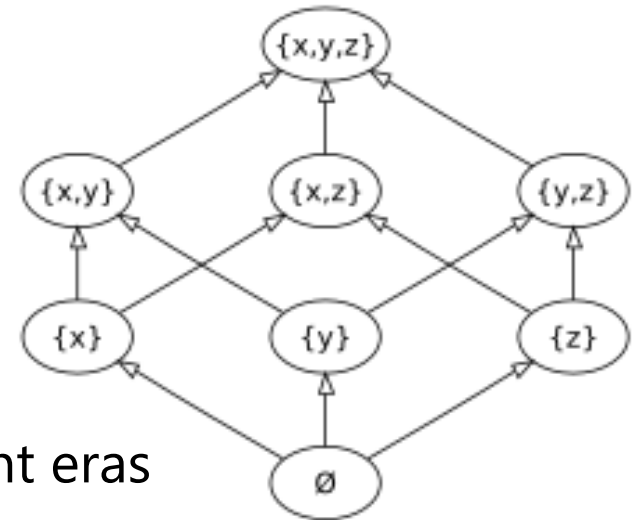A and B   A or B   A xor B

- Like in math, parentheses before times/divide before +/- similarly do XORs then ANDs then ORs

Combinations with Boolean Logic

- You can create custom groups that combine more than one of these items ➜ creative outcomes

- Up to 15 items in Flight Tracker

- *E.g.*, PhDs in Internal Medicine
  vs. MDs in Internal Medicine
  vs. MD/PhDs in Internal Medicine

- *E.g.*, people who received a grant in different eras
  [2010-2015 vs. 2016-2020 vs. 2021-2025]

Hand-Picking a Cohort

- Quick, static groups – don't want to make a dynamic filter
- *Ad hoc* groups – no controlling factor
- Groups too complex for Boolean logic – more than 15 Boolean logic options

☐ 16: Julie A Bastarache
☐ 17: Gerasimos Bastas
☐ 18: Jason R Becker
☐ 401: Katy Grace Beckermann
☐ 549: Michelle Bedenbaugh
☐ 19: Alicia C Beeghly-Fadiel
☐ 20: Susan P Bell
☐ 21: John T Benjamin
☐ 22: Margaret (Meg) M Benningfield
☐ 426: Matthew R Bersi
☐ 467: Alexandra Bettis
☐ 23: Gautam (Jay) B Bhave
☐ 464: Alexander Bick
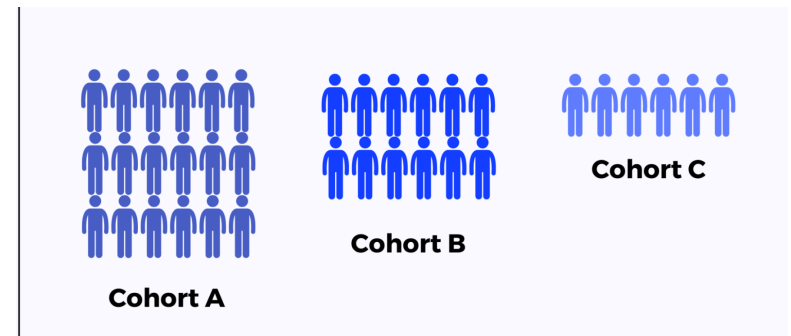
What Cohorts Have You Made?

Recap

- Demographics
- Grants
- Physician Scientists & PhD Scientists
- Departments & Divisions
- Person Roles & Program Roles
- Combinations with Boolean Logic
- Hand-Picking a Cohort
- What have you done with cohorts?

What's Next?

Mentee-Mentor Agreements v2.0

- MMAs help frame a mentoring relationship to head off potential problems
- Great for the new academic year with new mentors
- Mentors menu -> Start Mentee-Mentor Agreements
- **Problem**: But what about asking custom questions to mentees?

- **New**: Admins & mentors can add up to 5 custom questions if desired
- Almost done – Will be released likely within a week in **v6.23.0**

A Broader Flight Tracker?

- The CRESP engineering group at Vanderbilt wants to extend Flight Tracker for engineering applications
- To do so, we hope to:
  - Support Web of Science [1st step]
  - Integrate with DOE & EPA grants?
  - Perhaps more…
- It'll be optional; it must be turned on
- WoS publications will be treated like PubMed publications
- **Development work just starting…**

Support Resources

Forum: Flight Tracker Community
Free accounts available

Monthly Troubleshooting Call
3rd Wednesday, September 17, at 1pm CT

Monthly "Newbie" Call
Wednesday, September 10, 1pm CT

Monthly Getting Started Workshop
Friday, September 12, 12pm CT

Type your email in the chat for more info

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