

Flight Tracker Consortium Meeting

April 1, 2026



<https://edgeforscholars.vumc.org>

https://redcap.link/flight_tracker

Meeting Agenda



Current Version:
v6.23.2

What's New?
Sprint for **v6.23.3**

Deep Dive: Flight Connector – Build a Network

What's Next?
Major Additions in **v6.24.0**
Summer/Fall Plans



**FLIGHT
TRACKER**
FOR SCHOLARS

What's New?

Ongoing Work on v6.23.3



- Include all surveys in Scholar Portal's survey page
- Add Translational Science questions to Flight Tracker surveys
- Four bug fixes, including:
 - ERIC pubs showing in Publication Wrangler
 - Backfill ORCID biography information
- Vanderbilt-specific improvements



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Deep Dive

Flight Connector:
Build a Network

Flight Connector Software Series



- Our team is growing interested in questions of connection & collaboration
 - How can we facilitate, through software & data, people collaborating with each other efficiently?
- Flight Connector Software Series
 - Branded with a special logo
 - Some for Vanderbilt, some to share
 - *E.g.*, Flight Tracker's Find a Collaborator



Problems Considered in Designs

- Scholars tend to be introverts by nature
- It's hard to find the right people in big research institutions
 - Especially for newbies on campus
- Power dynamics – junior vs. senior – need to be addressed
- Team Science goal is sharing resources & knowledge
 - People need to be open to sharing & collaboration
- Searching needs to be efficient & fun



Flight Connector: Build a Network



- Just one tool in the series
- Meant to help with professional networking in small-to-mid-sized groups of **15-500 people**
 - Meetings, smaller conferences, departments/centers, etc.
- Form social networks of people
 - Some overlap in interests, but some non-overlap
 - Interests divided into knowledge & practical skills



Build a Network: Process





1. Group members fill out a 5-question survey
 - Each survey has customized checkboxes of knowledge areas [“contents”] and practical skills [lab “methods”]
2. Survey builds two clickable social networks that are accessible to the group
 - Names, emails, PubMed profiles & optional pictures
3. Social Network graphs grow as people fill them out
4. Meant to **start conversations** that might lead into professional collaborations

Setup

- Ask your REDCap admin to turn on the Flight Connector – Build a Network External Module on a blank REDCap project
- Fill out a list of contents and methods to show up on the survey
- Distribute the survey link

Install Flight Connector

Build A Network

A Professional Networking Tool
from [Edge for Scholars](#) 
and [Flight Tracker](#) 
Copyright © 2026
[Vanderbilt University Medical Center](#)

[Wrong Page? Disable this Module](#)

Flight Connector is a networking tool to help groups of knowledge workers identify colleagues with areas of expertise, whether intellectual content or methodologies. This page will generate a survey for participants to fill out. The survey will contain checkboxes for each item for participants to identify their strengths. These strengths will, in turn, produce an interactive social network map for broader viewing.

[\(View full ReadMe.\)](#)

Options for Concepts or Content Areas

Label:

Checkbox Options (one per line):

Options for Methods or Tools

Label:


Checkbox Options (one per line):

Check here to require a REDCap login before entering the survey.

Send out Surveys



- Manually send out the URL to the survey to any interested parties to fill out
- Their data will show up instantly once they submit a survey

 **Flight Connector**
Build A Network

A Professional Networking Tool
from [Edge for Scholars](#)
and [Flight Tracker](#)
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[Returning?](#)

AAA
+ -

Please complete the survey below with your areas of expertise.
Thank you!

1) Name

2) Email

3) Picture [Upload file](#)

4) Content Areas

<input type="checkbox"/> AIDS/HIV	<input type="checkbox"/> Inflammatory
<input type="checkbox"/> Aging/geriatrics	response/pathways/cytokines/eicosanoids
<input type="checkbox"/> Allergy/immunology	<input type="checkbox"/> Kidney disease and physiology (e.g., AKI, CKD, dialysis,

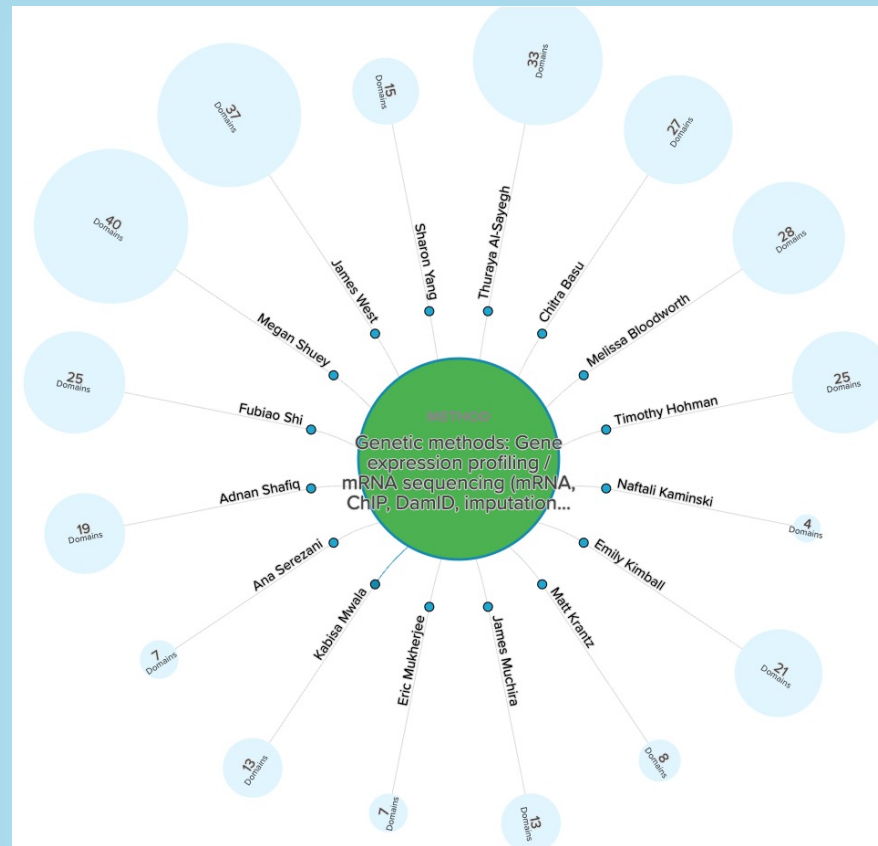
Live Demo



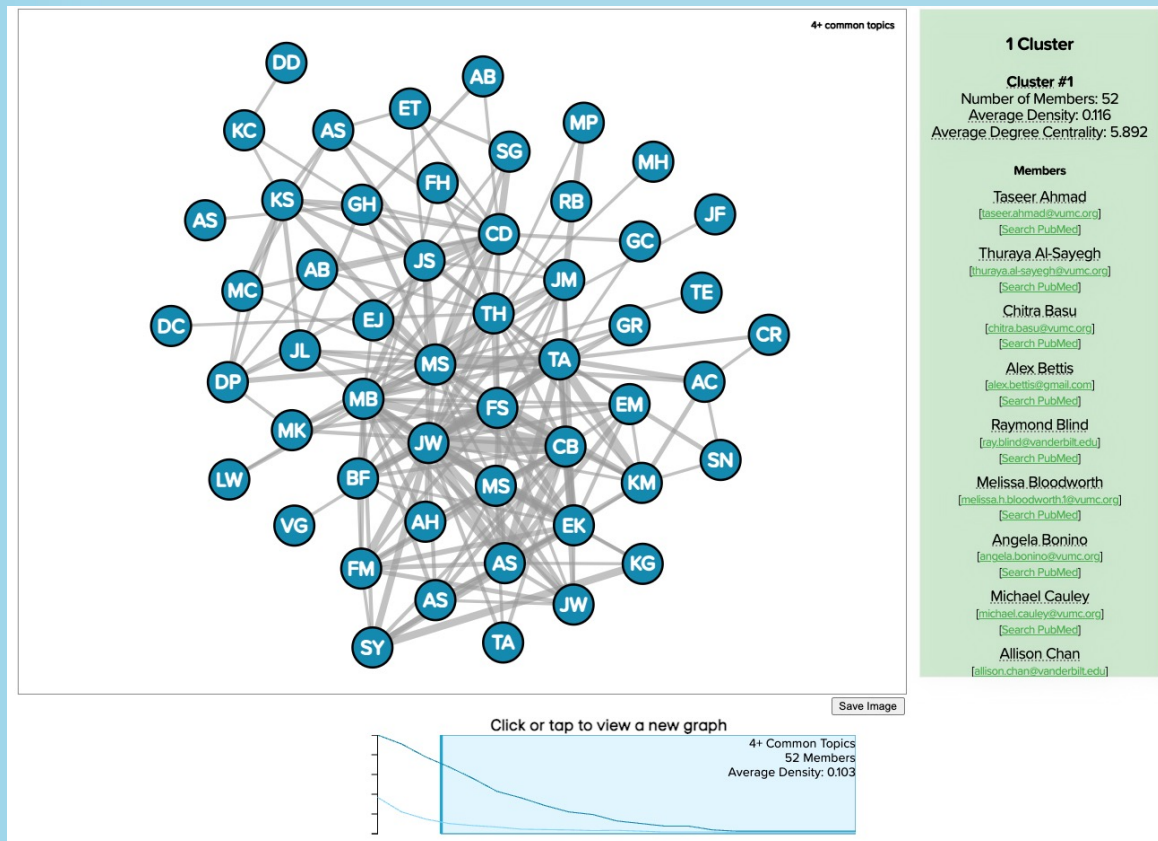
FLIGHT RESEARCH
CONNECTOR COLLABORATION

[Live Setup]

The Concept Map



The Node Graph



Starting the Conversation



- Prepare to meet people ahead of time
- At a gathering, use the picture to locate the person
- Send an email to start a conversation
- As an administrator, be mindful of power dynamics to facilitate environments for collaboration – **lead with curiosity**



Live Demo



FLIGHT RESEARCH
CONNECTOR COLLABORATION

[Live Data]

Shared Library



- On the page for Flight Connector edgeforscholars.vumc.org, we're going to create a library of contents & methods that might help others
- If you'd like to share, please email me your contents and methods

<https://edgeforscholars.vumc.org/additional-resources/flight-connector/>



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What's Next?

Flight Tracker v6.24.0



- Find a Collaborator – a way of searching across all Flight Trackers on a server for who publishes on a given topic
 - Advanced search
 - Search interface for admins, not just Scholar Portal
- Rebrand with new logo & colors
- Smaller improvements

Summer/Fall Forecasts



- **v6.25.0** – Federal data about R&D with small businesses
 - Small Business Innovation Research [SBIR]
 - Small Business Technology Transfer [STTR]
- **v6.26.0** – Data Aggregation across multiple Flight Tracker projects

Support Resources



Forum: Flight Tracker Community
Free accounts available

Monthly Troubleshooting Call
Wednesday, April 15, 1pm CT

Monthly “Newbie” Call
Wednesday, April 8, 1pm CT

Monthly Getting Started Workshop
Friday, April 10, 11.30am CT

Type your email in the chat for more info



May Meeting Cancelled



No Flight Tracker Consortium meeting in **May!**

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