

Flight Tracker Consortium Meeting

August 5, 2026



<https://edgeforscholars.vumc.org>

https://redcap.link/flight_tracker

Meeting Agenda



Current Version:
v6.23.3

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

Deep Dive: Data Cleaning

What's Next?

Another External Module: Resource Repository
Upcoming Survey: Facilitators & Barriers to Adoption



What's New?

New Release



- 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

Deep Dive

Data Cleaning

Automation's Downside



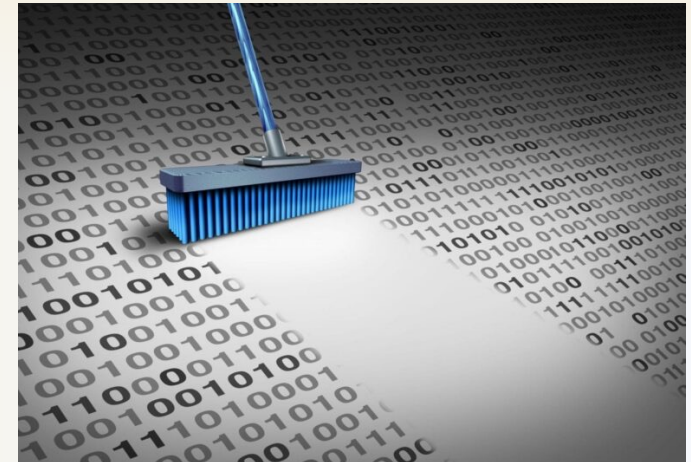
- You're only as good as the data going in
- Garbage in → Garbage out [GIGO]
- Emphasis moved from processes, which software can automate, to clean, structured data, which is not so automatic
- How do we provide clean, accurate, structured data?



**FLIGHT
TRACKER**
FOR SCHOLARS

Overview

- Institution names
- Correcting the Summary form
- Create a REDCap report for systemic issues
- Raise questions at Troubleshooting meeting
- Testing cleaning: Fetch Data Now
- Your tips & struggles for cleaning?



Getting Institution Names Right



- On the Position Change form
- They must match with PubMed & the NIH RePORTER
- Abbreviations are NOT helpful
- Shorter, unique names are the most helpful, *e.g.*,
 - North Carolina [not UNC or North Carolina at Chapel Hill]
 - Indiana University [not IU or Indiana University Bloomington]
- Entering these requires some knowledge of the college landscape



What Happens to Institution Names



- They get added to the **identifier_institution** field on the Identifiers instrument
 - Read-only field
- Institutions are separated by commas
- They get fed into the NIH RePORTER and PubMed's search tools
 - Each has their own quirks
- If it won't show up in a search of these tools, they won't work in Flight Tracker either!
 - Try out unusual institution names if necessary



Correcting the Summary Form



- The Summary form is “the computer’s best guess” about what’s true in Flight Tracker
- It is read-only; that is, changes will NOT be saved!
- **So... how do you change its information?**



Correcting the Summary Form



- Each field has its data **source** listed next to it. If there's a genuine inaccuracy, try correcting the original source.
 - Be careful & check yourself: You don't want to introduce an error
- The system will auto-correct the summary form when your data saves

Primary Department		Medicine/Allergy Pulmonary & Critical Care [104]
Primary Department Source	 	Manual Form (REDCap) ▼
Primary Department Self-Reported?		Manually Entered ▼
Sex		Female ▼
Sex Source	 	Initial Survey (self-survey) ▼
Sex Self-Reported?		Self-Reported ▼

Create a REDCap Report for Issues



- We recently had an issue, of my own creation, where surveys were being copied over into the wrong initial and followup surveys
- Thus, we created a **REDCap report** to identify which surveys were inaccurate
- Along with some manual checking, we've deleted the wrong data in our project and other projects
- The original data leak is long gone, too



Create a REDCap Report for Issues



4 Melinda Aldrich	Followup	1	Melinda	Aldrich
4 Melinda Aldrich	Followup	2	Melinda	Aldrich
5 Peggi Angel				
5 Peggi Angel	Followup	1	Peggi	Angel
6 Amy Arnold				
6 Amy Arnold	Followup	1	Amy	Arnold
7 Donald Arnold				
7 Donald Arnold	Followup	1	Donald	Arnold
7 Donald Arnold	Followup	2	Donald	Arnold
8 Shanna Arnold Egloff				
8 Shanna Arnold Egloff	Followup	1	Shanna	Arnold Egloff
8 Shanna Arnold Egloff	Followup	2	Shanna	Arnold Egloff
9 Carolyn Audet				
9 Carolyn Audet	Followup	1	Carolyn	Audet
9 Carolyn Audet	Followup	2	Carolyn	Audet
10 Eric Austin				
10 Eric Austin	Followup	1	Eric	Austin
10 Eric Austin	Followup	2	Eric	Austin
11 April Barnado				
11 April Barnado	Followup	1	April	Barnado

Raise Issues at the Troubleshooting Meeting



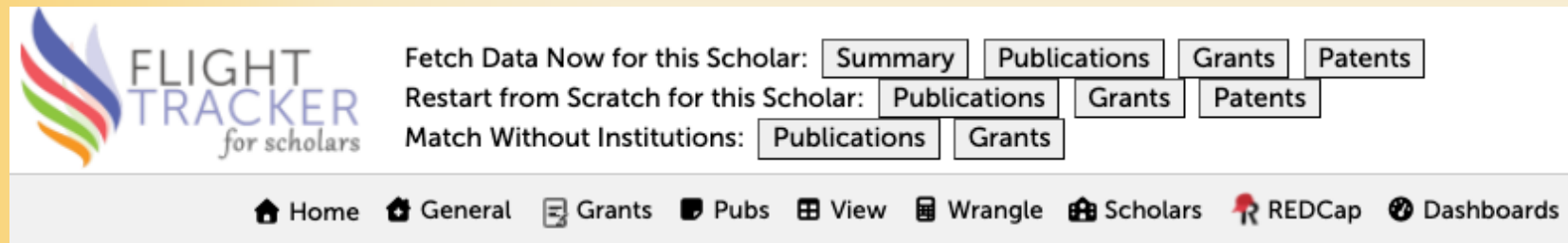
- If you can't figure out a solution, we have a troubleshooting meeting at **1pm CT on the third Wednesday of each month**
- I can help, and maybe some listeners can help, with tough cases



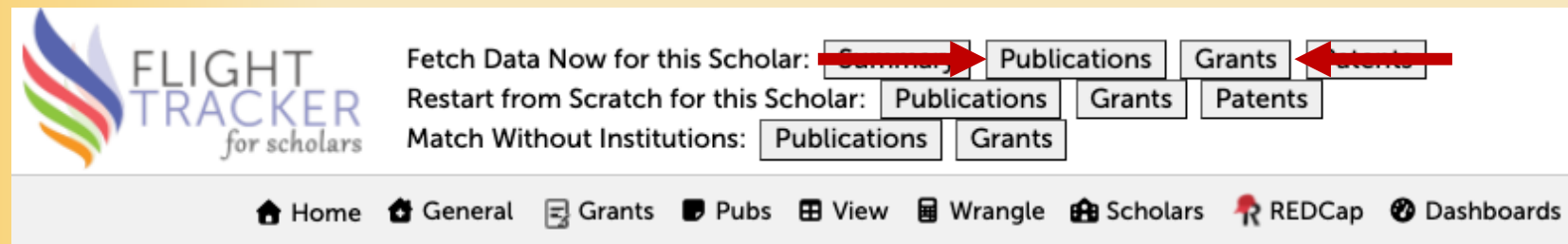
Testing: Fetch Data Now



- When you're on a scholar's record, some buttons will appear above the menu bar



Testing: Fetch Data Now



- Click the Fetch Data Now button for Publications or Grants to grab an updated set of publications or grants for that person only
- It'll use the new institution list to make sure you're getting it right
- Then check the REDCap data for new data from the new pull with the new institution data

Your Tips & Struggles for Cleaning?



Many on this call have more experience than me in data cleaning for Flight Tracker. **What are your tips & struggles?**





What's Next?

Resource Repository



- Need a secure place in REDCap to store your documents to share with your institution?
- We're developing a Resource Repository External Module to see your documents behind a REDCap login.
- More to come in a few months...

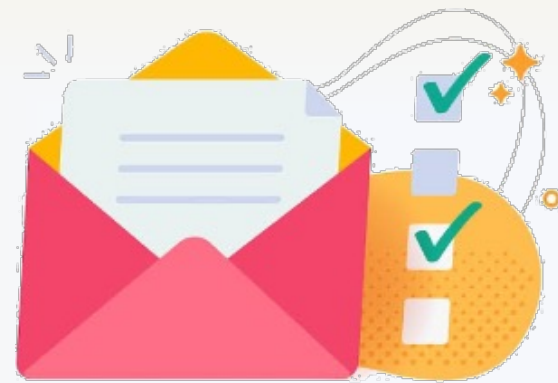
The screenshot shows the "efs" (EDGE for SCHOLARS) interface for the "Adrienne Babcock Funded Grants Library". On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Grants, Use Statistics, Add Your Grant, Administer Users, NIH RePORTER, and Instructional Video. The main content area includes a "Show Older Grants" checkbox, a "Filter by Award:" dropdown, a "Search:" input field, and a "Column Visibility" dropdown. Below these is a table of grants with columns for Title, PI, Grant Number, NIH Submission Number, Date, and View.

Title	PI	Grant Number	NIH Submission Number	Date	View
mGlu Allosteric Modulation in Neurodegenerative Diseases	Rook, Jerri Michelle	R01AG051626		2016-05	View
TGF-beta Pathways that Protect Epithelia in Chronic Renal Injury	Gewin, LS	R01DK108968	Original Submission	2016-06	View
Noradrenergic Regulation in the BNST	Winder, DG	R01DA042475	Second Resubmission	2016-07	View

Upcoming Survey



- I plan to send out a survey on **facilitators & barriers** to adopting Flight Tracker
- We'll use this survey:
 - To strategize for future support
 - To learn to coach folks when they're ready to adopt
- It'll be sent via email; please fill it out at your convenience
- Candid responses are appreciated!



Support Resources



Forum: Flight Tracker Community

Free accounts available

Monthly Troubleshooting Call

Wednesday, August 19, 1pm CT

Monthly “Newbie” Call

Monday, August 10, noon CT

Monthly Getting Started Workshop

Thursday, August 13, 1pm CT

Type your email in the chat for more info



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