

Flight Tracker Consortium Meeting

September 2, 2026



<https://edgeforscholars.vumc.org>

https://redcap.link/flight_tracker

Meeting Agenda



Current Version:
v6.23.4

What's New?

Release for **v6.23.4**

Very Soon: Release for **v6.23.5**

Deep Dive: Facilitators & Barriers Survey

What's Next?

Adjusting Flight Tracker Surveys

Another External Module: Resource Repository



What's New?

New Releases



- **v6.23.4**: Security updates
- **v6.23.5**: In 1-2 weeks... small bug fixes
 - Including a fix for re-downloading pubs via ORCID in the Publication Wrangler
 - I'd encourage you to upgrade by asking your REDCap team to do so
 - [Demo: How to find if there's a new release...]



Deep Dive

Facilitators & Barriers Survey

Outline: Facilitators & Barriers

- Data from the survey
- Rebecca's takeaways
- Next steps, including your feedback



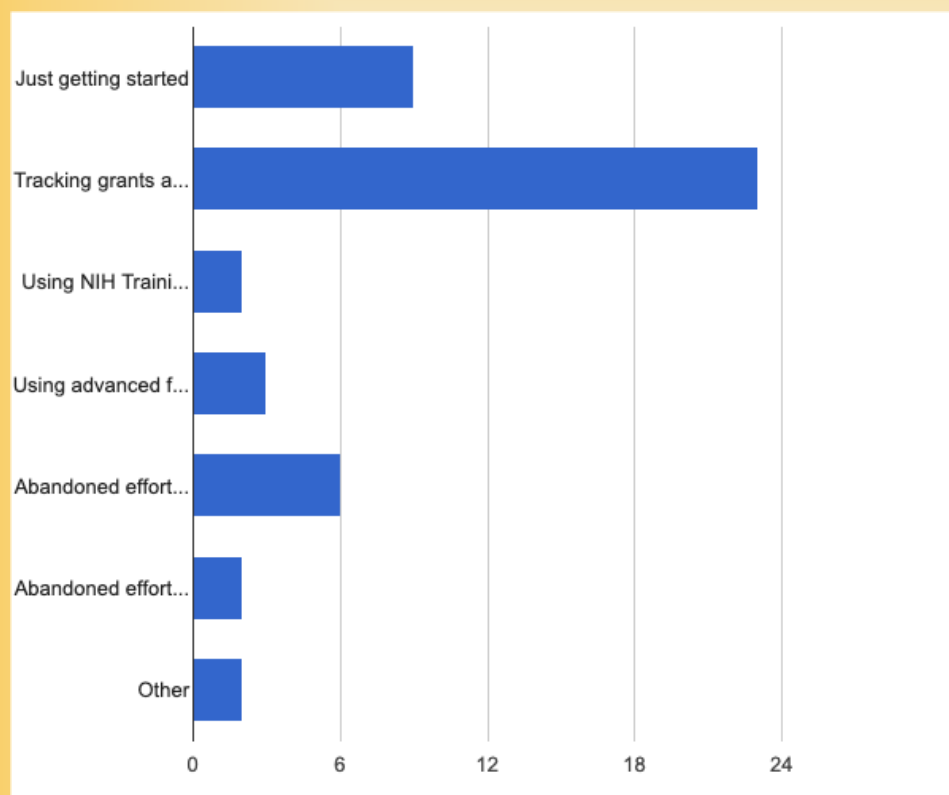
Metadata



- 48 responses to survey
- 20 text responses to “General comments”
- 16 text responses to “Other” barriers to adoption

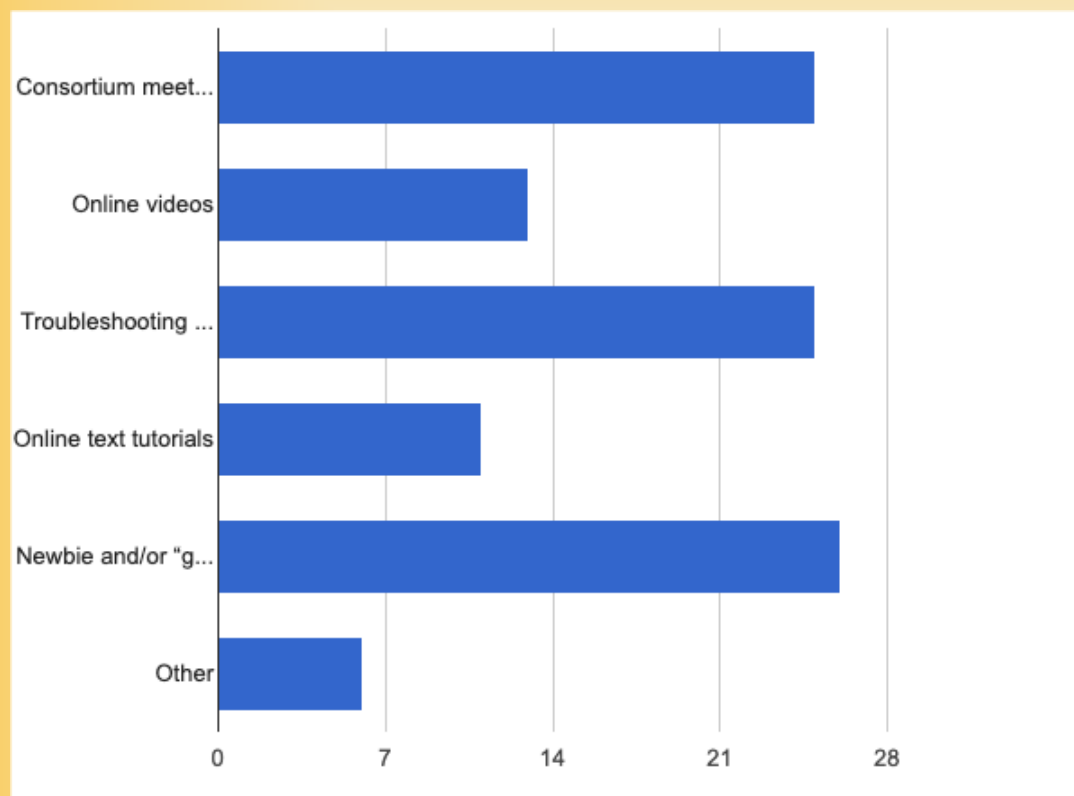


Adoption Status Question



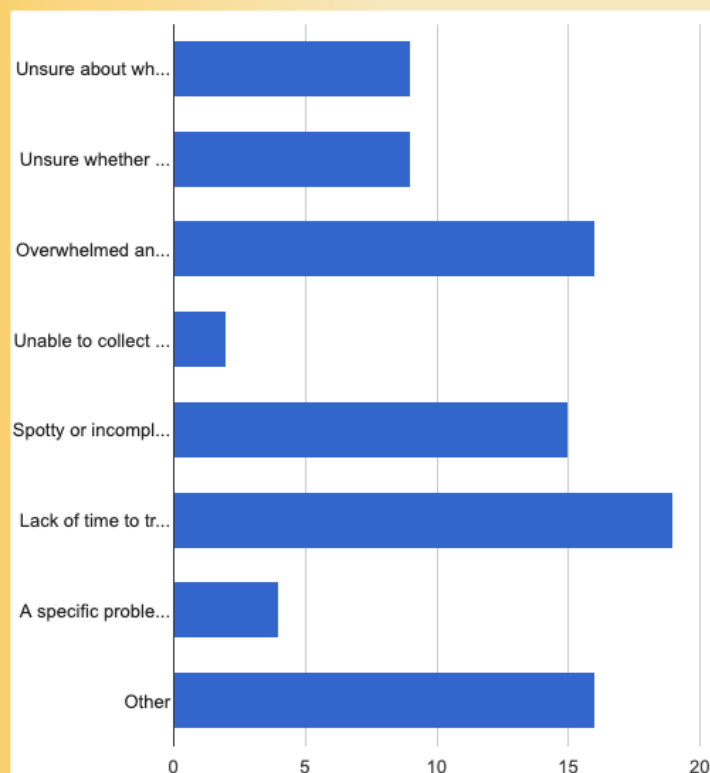
- Just getting started (9, 19.1%)
- Tracking grants and/or publications (23, 48.9%)
- Using NIH Training Tables (2, 4.3%)
- Using advanced features like visualizations, surveys, etc. (3, 6.4%)
- Abandoned effort but would like to restart (6, 12.8%)
- Abandoned effort for good (2, 4.3%)
- Other (2, 4.3%)

Facilitators Question



- Consortium meetings (25, 55.6%)
- Online videos (13, 28.9%)
- Troubleshooting meetings (25, 55.6%)
- Online text tutorials (11, 24.4%)
- Newbie and/or “getting started” calls (26, 57.8%)
- Other (6, 13.3%)

Barriers Question



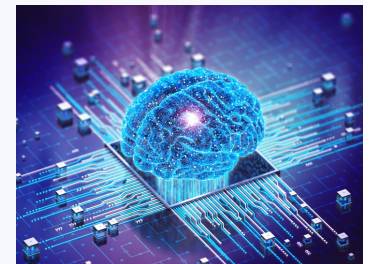
- Unsure about what next step to take (9, 21.4%)
- Unsure whether Flight Tracker can really help your challenges (9, 21.4%)
- Overwhelmed and unsure what I can do with the software (16, 38.1%)
- Unable to collect any data (2, 4.8%)
- Spotty or incomplete data (15, 35.7%)
- Lack of time to train (19, 45.2%)
- A specific problem or set of problems (4, 9.5%)
- Other (16, 38.1%)

Barriers: Other – AI Summary



- Key themes include a willingness for PMs to handle data wrangling, but adoption is often limited by timing, staffing, and institutional readiness.
- Major barriers are reliance on spreadsheets, difficulty helping teams see the value of the platform, and the challenge of building trust in its data.
- Technical frustrations include slow [Publication] wrangling, unhelpful error messages, lack of scheduled releases, and features that are hard to configure, such as custom emails.

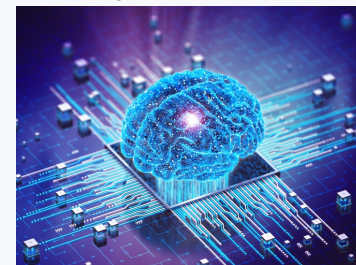
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Barriers: Other – AI Summary



- Users also want more flexibility and integrations, including additional data sources like Overton, support for opening pipelines from systems like Workday and Huron, and the ability to add custom surveys and mentor-mentee agreements.
- Some institutions are still working through security and administrative setup, while others struggle to keep data current and coordinate across staff.
- Overall, the main needs are better usability, clearer guidance, more automation, and stronger collaboration support.

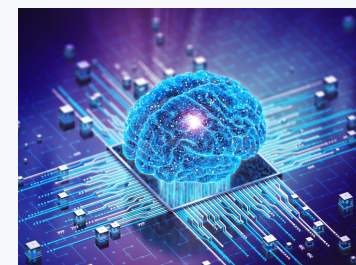


General Comments – AI Summary



- Overall feedback on Flight Tracker is positive: users value the monthly calls, video archives, responsive support from Scott and the team, and its usefulness for tracking publications, grants, and training programs.
- Several sites are expanding adoption or planning to move forward, while others have paused or abandoned implementation.
- Common requests include more onboarding materials, a step-by-step adoption guide, clearer documentation on data setup, and dedicated 1:1 support.

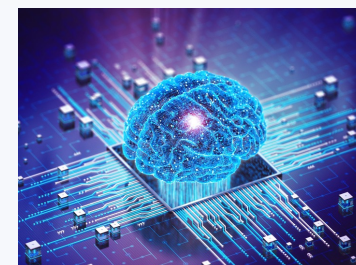
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General Comments – AI Summary



- Users also want stronger functionality for tracking trainees/postdocs, sub-awards, non-federal awards, mentors, and cross-program data without duplication.
- Some noted a steep learning curve, confusing fields, and difficulty navigating older materials.
- There is interest in consortium meetings, code sharing, feature development, and learning from peer institutions.
- Overall, users see strong potential in the platform but want improved usability, broader data capture, and more implementation support to maximize adoption.



Rebecca's Takeaway #1



Several are having trouble getting buy-in from admin and faculty. What if we had a really, really simple and slick video they could show the hesitant people that explains why you should use Flight Tracker?



Rebecca's Takeaway #2



Some are complaining about the interface being too complex. I'm not sure how realistic it is to simplify, but we could get someone very well-versed in UI [maybe outside of REDCap?] to audit the entire look and feel of the project and make suggestions. This would require money, though.



Rebecca's Takeaway #3



Finally, another common thread is it's just too much work for what's probably one person to keep up with. That's not something we can fix for them, but maybe streamlining the interface would help make things go quicker.



Rebecca's Takeaway #4



We could cut out the more teaching-like deep dive material from consortium meetings and make it into short videos on specific topics. I'm thinking in particular of the two I've done on tips for publication wrangling. Or maybe just get back on that plan to use the VU studio to make polished videos.



Summary: Unifying Themes?



There aren't a ton of unifying themes, but a couple stand out:

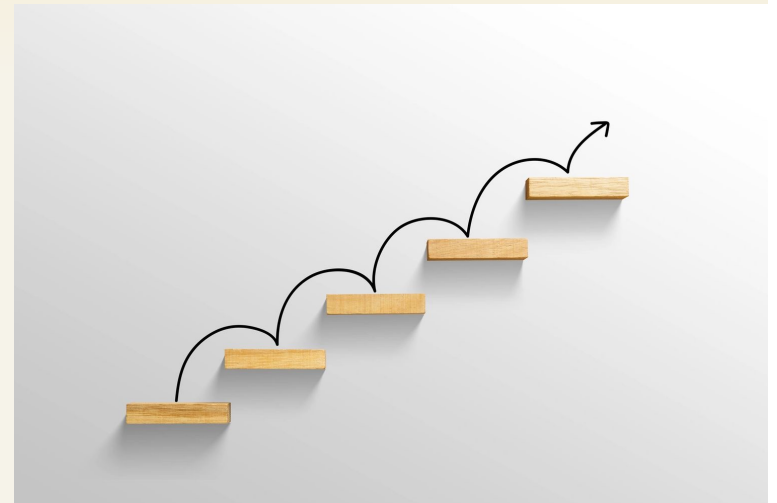
- Support is appreciated
- The learning-curve problem is one of them
 - Simper interface that's more organized for beginner vs. advanced features? Streamlined for pub/grant collection



Next Steps?



- I'd love to do everything, but we have limited resources
 - Therefore, prioritize simple, high-impact interventions
 - Internally, coding time is the most expensive
- What should we prioritize?





What's Next?

Adjusting Flight Tracker Surveys



- On the Initial & Followup Surveys, we are proposing getting rid of:
 - Alumni Associations
 - Twitter / X Handles
 - LinkedIn Handles
- Does anyone use these?

Twitter/X Handle(s)	
	Comma separated
LinkedIn Handle(s) (The URL of your LinkedIn profile)	
	Comma separated
Alumni Association	
	To announce your successes

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.
- Next up on Ryan's docket, after **v6.23.5** is released...

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

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

Support Resources



Forum: Flight Tracker Community

Free accounts available

Monthly Troubleshooting Call

Wednesday, September 16, 1pm CT

Monthly “Newbie” Call

Thursday, September 10, 1pm CT

Monthly Getting Started Workshop

Friday, September 11, noon CT

Type your email in the chat for more info



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