Flight Tracker Consortium Meeting

November 4, 2026

EDGE FOR SCHOLARS

https://edgeforscholars.vumc.org

https://redcap.link/flight_tracker

Meeting Agenda

FLIGHT TRACKER FOR SCHOLARS

Current Version:
v6.23.6

Deep Dive: Flight Connector: Build a Network

What's Next?
Flight Tracker Takeoff Videos

FLIGHT TRACKER FOR SCHOLARS

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
  - There's some overlap in interests, but also some differences
  - Interests divided into content-area knowledge & methods expertise



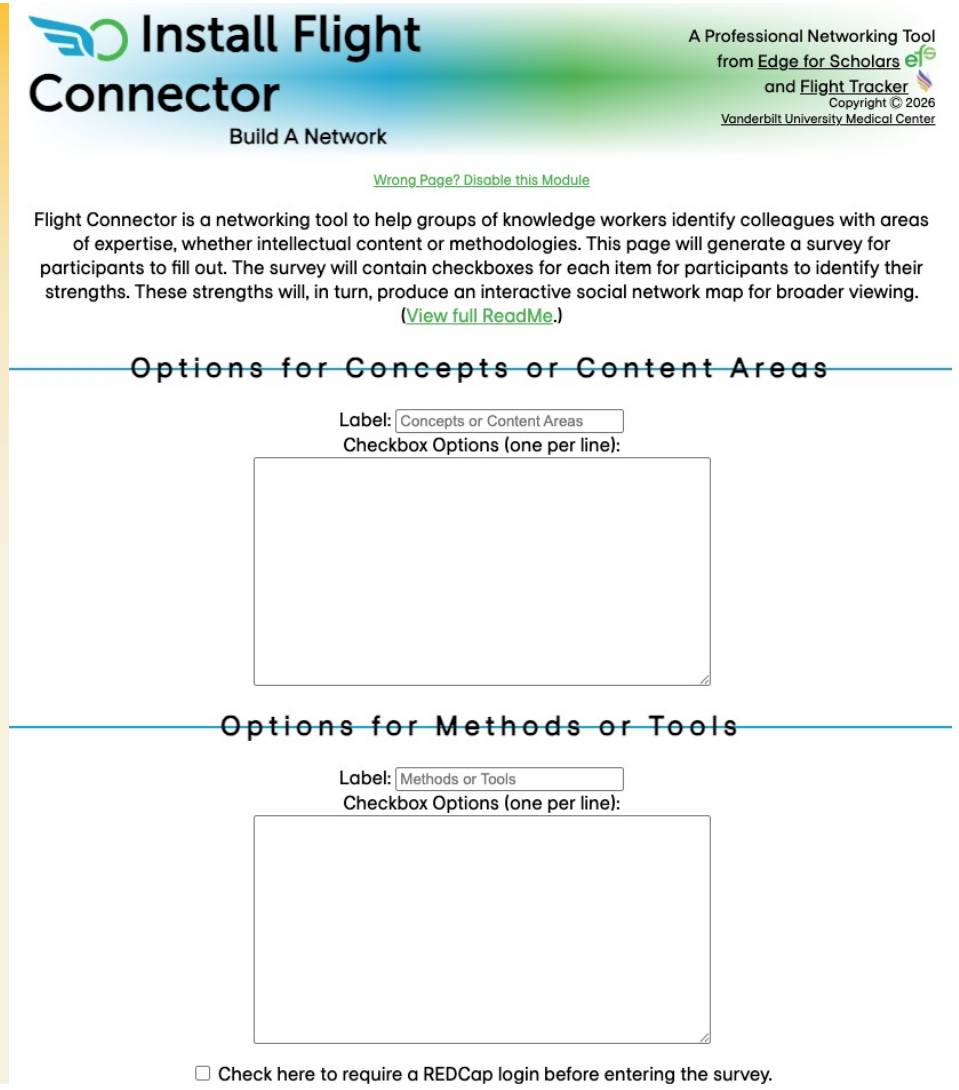
Build a Network: Process



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

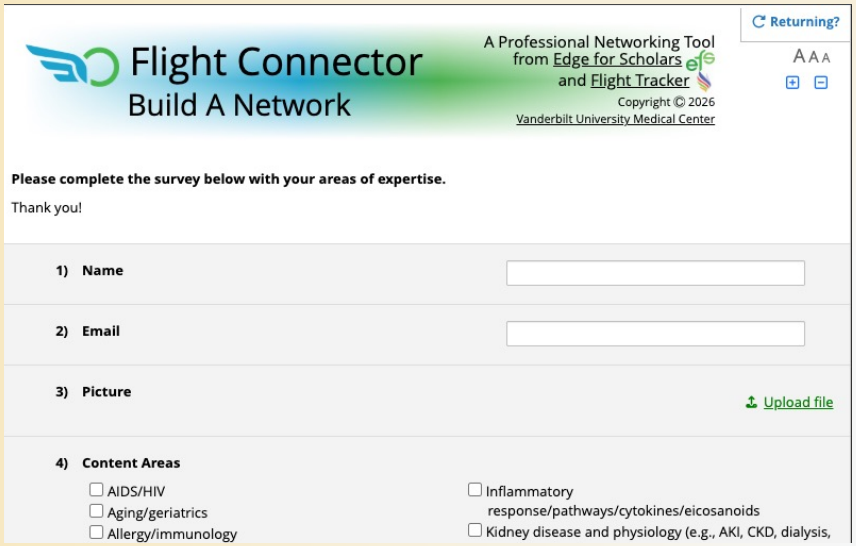
- Ask your REDCap admin to turn on the Flight Connector – Build a Network External Module on a blank REDCap project
- Fill out a list of contents and methods to show up on the survey
- Distribute the survey link



Send out Surveys

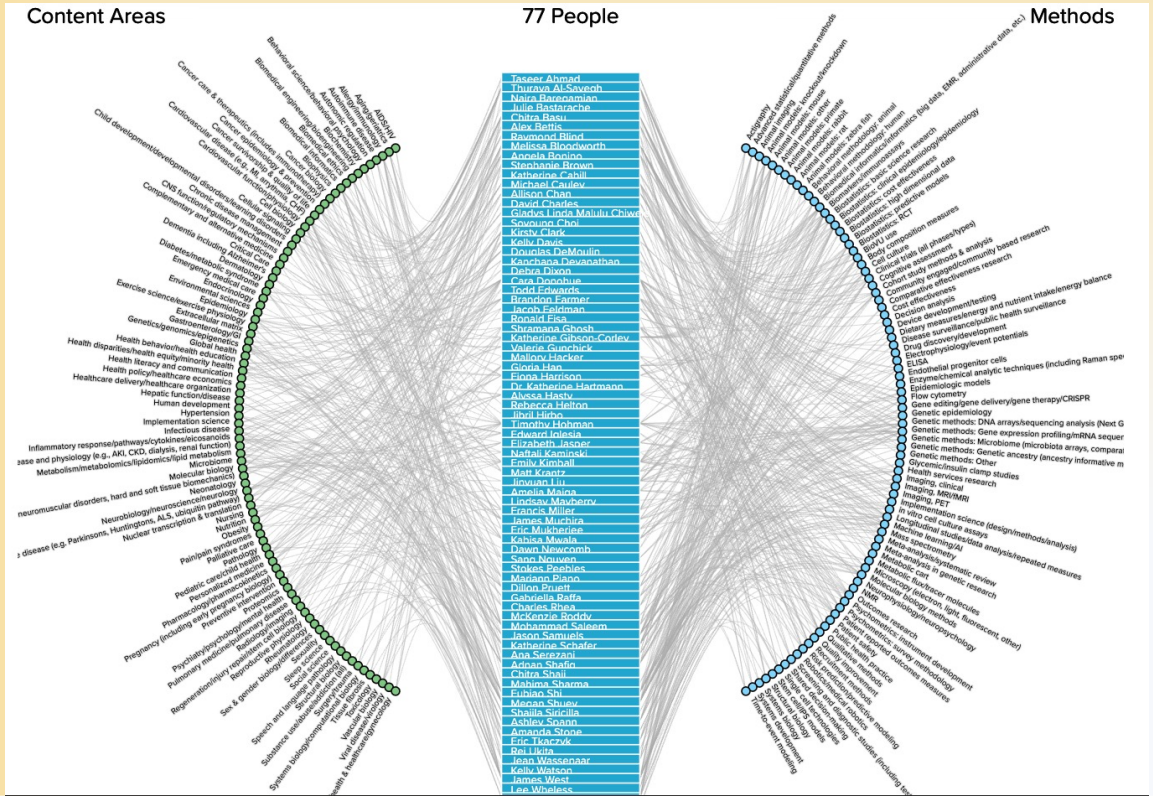
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- Manually send out the URL to the survey to any interested parties to fill out
- Their data will show up instantly once they submit a survey



Watch Social Networks Grow as Data Come in

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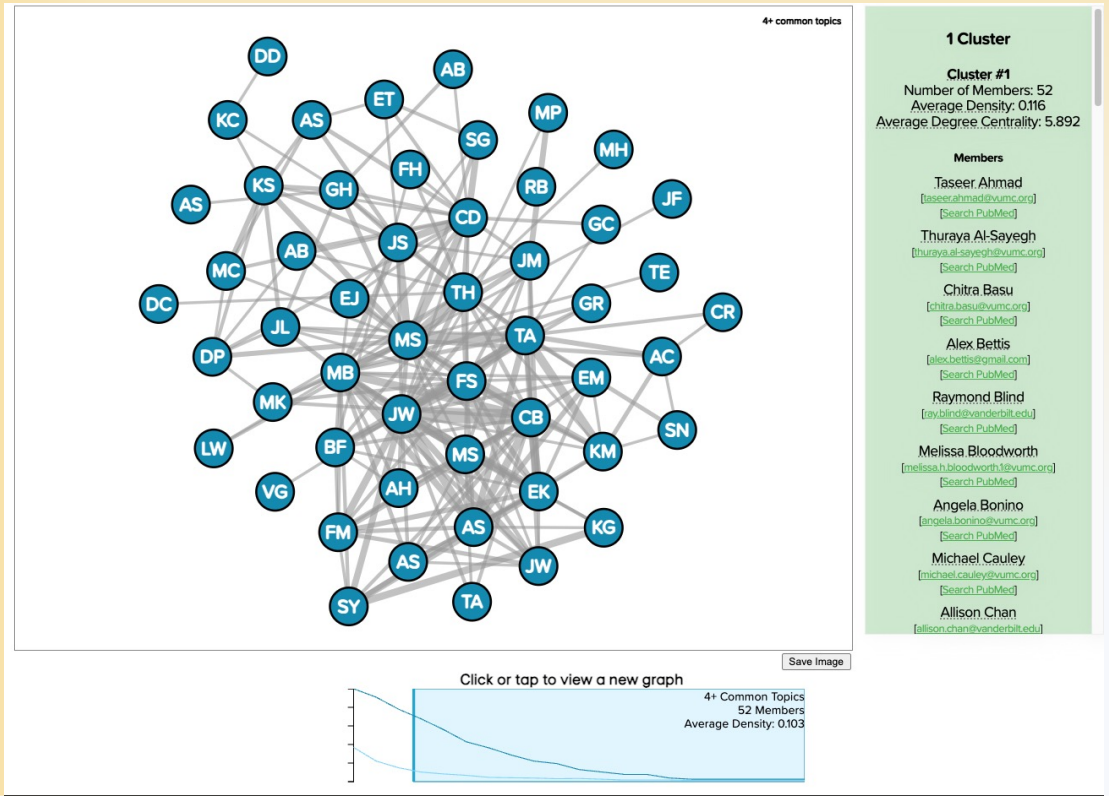
The Concept Map

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The Node Graph

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Starting the Conversation

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- 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



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FLIGHT CONNECTOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

[Live Data]

Shared Library

FLIGHT TRACKER FOR SCHOLARS

- On the page for Flight Connector edgeforscholars.vumc.org, we maintain 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/flight-connector-shared-library/



Available Now!

FLIGHT TRACKER FOR SCHOLARS

- Flight Connector: Build a Network is available **now** in the REDCap Repo of External Modules
- To **try it out**, ask your REDCap team to download the “Flight Connector External Module” and enable it on a blank REDCap project





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What's Next?

Flight Tracker Takeoff Videos

FLIGHT TRACKER FOR SCHOLARS

- Basic Publication Wrangling
- Basic Grant Wrangling
- NIH Training Tables
- Basic REDCap Reports
- Flight Tracker's REDCap Forms
- Mentoring Agreements
- Scholar Portal



Support Resources

FLIGHT TRACKER FOR SCHOLARS

Forum: Flight Tracker Community
Free accounts available

Monthly Troubleshooting Call
Wednesday, November 18, 1pm CT

Monthly "Newbie" Call
Wednesday, November 11, 1pm CT

Monthly Getting Started Workshop
Friday, November 13, noon CT

Type your email in the chat for more info



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