Poster Number: 8

Journey to MARRS: Utilizing Cross-Platform Database Access to Optimize Compliance Monitoring and Data Management
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Problem Statement:
In the ever-changing field of animal research oversight, it is imperative to be proactive rather than reactive when regarding protocol departures. Many animal care programs, in turn, struggle to identify mechanisms optimal for assessing these needs because the necessary information can be spread across several, unlinked databases. Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) currently relies on a Monitoring and Oversight database (MOPs) for the documentation and tracking of Post Approval Monitoring (PAM) Audits, Semi Annual Inspections (SAIs), and Satellite Housing Facility Monitoring. This database management system has performed well, but lacks the ability to assess protocol compliance information across different databases that house electronic protocols (ARIES) and ordering and census information. To address this, VUMC has begun development of a new Monitoring and Regulatory Reporting System (MARRS), to replace MOPs. This system will be able to share data and information across all three database platforms. The combining of database access will not only allow for enhanced tracking of departure trends but also provide the program vital information for monitoring and maintenance in a timely and easily-accessible format.

Description of the research:
MARRS will allow for comprehensive animal usage location maintenance, submissions for departure resolution, census monitoring for expiring protocols, SAI and PAM audit scheduling, communication and assessment, exemption tracking, and automated report generation. The goal will be to take advantage of the combined database access to be able to identify and address new trending departures as they are occurring, share vital compliance information across user groups, and greatly decrease the time required to analyze compliance information. This will allow for the faster identification of and response to developing compliance issues while significantly lowering the time PAMs spend generating and analyzing compliance reports. Metrics of success upon development and implementation of the program will focus on comparisons of the previous, independent compliance system in timeliness of identifying issues, report generation, trend analysis, and PAM workload measures.

Additional Information:
Easy access to this type of empirical data is pivotal in determining the success of an animal care and use program in identifying and management of protocol-related compliance. Given the prevalence of animal care and use programs that rely on multiple electronic systems to manage relevant compliance information, the sharing of the development and optimization process, advantages, and limitations of
cross-platform systems will be valuable to programs wanting to fully utilize databases while increasing personnel efficiencies.