

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, Postdocs and Students involved in research,
From: Dr. Adnan Hyder, Senior Associate Dean for Research, GWSPH
Date: 17 September 2020
Subject: Research and Reorganization to the Pod model

A few weeks ago, the Provost initiated a reorganization of all research positions in the university with the creation of 3 “pods” at GW. As a result, research staff have been slotted into these Pods, projected to be more autonomous units that will utilize a shared service model and are located within schools.

Pod 2

The Milken Institute School of Public Health (including the Biostatistics Center), and the GW Law School are all going to be serviced by Pod 2. By consolidating all research administration staff under a single structure, along with collocating three central research office staff, the outcome is intended to streamline workflows and processes. Pod 2 intends to build upon existing relationships while also introducing an overlapping staffing structure to ensure maximum coverage and support to Principal Investigators and their research endeavors. Having a more robust structure which coordinates the expertise of our 16 Pod staff will lead to enhanced research support

Transition to Pod

While we work to establish a POD structure, we request your patience during this transition. At this time, research work should continue under the old system until such time we announce a shift. Our intent is to transition as seamlessly as possible with the final result being a Pod that handles all pre- and post-award research administration processes for the schools. All research staff have been asked to prepare for this transition and continue supporting their current assignments until further notice.

We actively welcome suggestions and feedback from all stakeholders involved in the process and encourage you to submit your ideas to gwresearchpod2@gwu.edu, the new central intake email address for our Pod. Moreover, we have hosted several open forums and meetings to learn more about your vision for the future of research and ensure your opinions are heard.

Future of Research

While we are living in a time of uncertainty, an imperative message takeaway is that we are steadfast in our commitment to the research enterprise. This reorganization that we are embarking on is a first major step towards creating a sustainable model that has the potential to better support our research portfolio. While change is always difficult, we can recognize an end point that will benefit all involved and that we need your help and support to ensure the success of our Pod.

Thank you for your contributions, ideas, and viewpoints.