



NCURA-PKU Research Administration Symposium

NCURA's International Fellowship Program, now in its tenth year, was developed to increase global research collaboration by providing a method of knowledge exchange between research administrators around the world. To date, the program has granted fellowships to 54 NCURA members and has helped reduce and lower the barriers to international research collaboration.

As doors open, connections are made. NCURA member Shaofeng Fan, Division Chief for Overseas Projects, Office of Scientific Research at Peking University (PKU), and recipient of an NCURA International Fellowship in 2017, connected with NCURA's Global Department that same year, and plans were made for NCURA to travel to Beijing, China in 2018 to present a global workshop during the 120th Anniversary of Peking University.

The NCURA-PKU Research Administration Symposium was held on October 16 – 18, 2018, which over 90 research administrators attended from throughout China. Following opening remarks by Qihuang Gong, Vice President of Research at Peking University, and Georgette Sakumoto, 2018 NCURA President, the workshop began with a session on Supporting the Science: Research Administrative Best Practices.

The lead presenters were NCURA members Dave Richardson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Office of the Vice Chancellor for

Research at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Ara Tahmassian, Chief Compliance Officer, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, Harvard University, with additional speakers interspersed throughout the program to highlight global research collaboration. NCURA



2018 NCURA President Georgette Sakumoto

member Agatha Keller, representing ETH Zurich, spoke on The Importance of International Research Collaboration and Science Diplomacy. NCURA Executive Director, Kathleen Larmett, presented a session on NCURA and the Importance of a Professional Association for Research Administrators, during which she encouraged the audience to form their own association. Day 1 was moderated by Dr. Huiling Duan, Deputy Dean at the College of Engineering at Peking University, and Day 2 was moderated by Claire Chen, Manager of NCURA Global, who along with Shaofeng and the PKU's Office of Scientific

Research, was responsible for the development of this program.

This symposium was truly a platform for sharing best practices in research administration no matter where you come from. Dave Richardson described his teaching and learning experience after the symposium as,

“an honor to serve as a member of the NCURA delegation participating and presenting at the inaugural NCURA – Peking University Research Administration Symposium.

The opportunity to share best practices in research administration reinforced we are more alike than different regardless of where we call home for we often face the same challenges in the administration of sponsored research. I appreciated the opportunity to share and learn from our Chinese colleagues.”

When asked about his experience attending the symposium, Dr. Chun Liu, Deputy Director of the Division of Science and Technology at Tongji University, said,

“during this perfect workshop of international research collaboration, the outstanding international research management flowchart was offered to be learned, enormous international research resources were shared, and the solution for technology transfer in international research was put forward to be recognized. I do think we can all learn from these resources provided by this workshop which will be of



“Peking University was so pleased to jointly host this fantastic symposium with NCURA. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, and a discussion of best practices, this two-day symposium has provided an in-depth look at related issues about research administration, which not only serve as venues for forming research collaborations and partnerships but also enabling research administrators to develop their professional networks.” — Shaofeng Fan

tremendous assistance in improving the quality of the research management system in Tongji University.”

While in China, NCURA's delegation had the opportunity to visit several institutions in Beijing, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and they traveled to Shanghai, where they met with representatives from Fudan University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, and Tongji University.

Describing his experience in China, Ara Tahmassian commented,

“as a member of the NCURA delegation, I was honored to be part of a group that exemplifies the importance of science and diplomacy. The Peking University Research Administration Symposium was an excellent illustration of how professional research administrators who face similar issues – regardless of their location or sources of funding – can come together, share their experiences, learn from each other, and develop relationships that enriches all and advances collaborations.” ■



L-R: Agatha Keller, Claire Chen, Georgette Sakumoto, Ara Tabmassian, Kathleen Larmett, Dave Richardson

