



iSMART: Infrastructure for Support, Mentorship & Research Training

Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute's Infrastructure for Support, Mentorship and Research Training (iSMART) offers guidance and resources designed *'for researchers, by researchers'* to help make the university research infrastructure more accessible. iSMART features 5 initiatives: the Accelerated Staff Assistance Program (ASAP), 'Now What?' Training Series for research teams, a research staff CHAMPIONS initiative, a Resource Repository and a DETAILS certificate program.

iSMART Goals:

The iSMART program was developed to improve infrastructure, support, diversity, and efficiency for research teams conducting human subject research across Penn State. iSMART goals are to:

- develop and maintain a sustainable and dynamic infrastructure to navigate the research process efficiently and effectively;
- provide user-friendly, tailored learning, resources to new and existing staff and faculty;
- train centrally managed staff to support human subjects research projects; and
- recognize research staff and provide professional development and networking opportunities to promote their growth

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iSMART features five new programs to support research faculty and staff on their path to discovery. These programs are designed with content to facilitate understanding of the respective roles and foster highly efficient and well-functioning teams.





Accelerated Staff Assistance Program

The Accelerated Staff Assistance Program (ASAP) ***supports short-term or partial-effort staffing needs for funded Penn State faculty.*** ASAP provides trained research staff to support start-ups, maternity or sick leave, and other partial-effort needs.



Now What? Series

The 'Now What?' series will use ***case-based learning to provide ongoing development, support and peer mentorship via monthly active 'all teach, all learn' sessions designed for faculty and staff teams.*** 'Now What?' will focus on interactive, Q&A-focused sessions addressing research topics such as "We just got a new grant, Now What?".



DETAILS certificate

DETAILS courses are designed to ***help research teams learn basic (101 courses) or advanced (201 courses) skills related to common research tools, techniques, methods or resources.*** 101 courses will focus on basic topic overview whereas 201 courses will take a deeper dive into topics. All courses include content relevant to both faculty and staff to understand each others' roles related to each topic.

DETAILS courses are both skill-based courses (e.g., IRB-related topics, REDCap, hiring processes, data use agreements) as well as science-based courses (e.g., survey research, chart review research, educational research, mixed methods research, etc).



Resource Repository

The online resource repository is ***a comprehensive, one-stop shop for all things related to research infrastructure and efficiency.*** The repository collates existing resources and serves as the main terminal for resources related to iSMART programs, topics and materials. The repository is reviewed annually and all materials are assessed by the relevant centralized offices to ensure accuracy.



CHAMPIONS Initiative

Established staff with broad research skills will be selected as Champions. Champions will serve as ***a "go-to" resource for their peers and can assist with processes, knowledge and can share where to go for more help.*** Champions help collate resources related to their specific skillset within the Resource Repository and will work closely with the centralized offices to distribute materials and answer questions as appropriate. Additionally, Champions serve as the point person in an effort to streamline and crowd-source obtaining help and guidance in a way that is accessible and useful for the research teams.

Penn State CTSI is here to help.

Our vision is to improve human health, promote collaboration, make the research process more efficient, and champion translational research across the University.

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