

# SRA International eNews

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## **SRA International Meetings & Events**

- [SRA International Upcoming Events](#)
- [2006 Annual Meeting Sessions and Workshops Available on Online](#)

Whether you are new to research administration or a seasoned leader in the field, there is something for everyone. Give yourself a boost up the career ladder by attending an SRA International sponsored event.

[2007 North Carolina Chapter Meeting](#)

March 5-7, 2007

Embassy Suites Cary, NC

[Allegheny Chapter](#)

When: March 30, 2007

Where: **(TBA)** Pittsburgh, PA

[2007 Northeast Section Meeting](#)

April 21-25, 2007

Newport, Rhode Island

[2007 Midwest Section Meeting](#)

April 28-May 2, 2007

Kansas City, Missouri

[2007 Western Section Meeting](#)

April 28 – May 2, 2007

Waikoloa, Hawaii

[2007 Southern/Canadian Section Meeting](#)

June 2-6, 2007

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

**Annual Meeting**

SRA 2007 Annual Meeting

October 13-17, 2007

[The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center](#)

Nashville, Tennessee

## **2006 Annual Meeting Sessions and Workshops Available on Online**

SRA International's 2006 Annual Meeting brought together more than 1,300 research administrators from around the world in beautiful and historic Quebec City. If you missed this premiere educational event, you will be pleased to know that the audio and presentation materials of many of the sessions and workshops were captured and are now available for [purchase online](#). Whether you choose to purchase all the recorded sessions and workshops or individual programs, you will not want to miss this opportunity to advance your knowledge base by listening to the materials and reviewing the handouts at a time and place that is convenient for you.

**Also, please watch out for articles in eNews throughout the year from the Annual Meetings' speaker pool! We've decided to keep the conversations rolling through the year, so watch for articles from your favorite speakers!**

Mark your calendar now for SRA International's 2007 Annual Meeting, which will be held October 13-17 in Nashville, TN at the world-class [Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center](#). The resort features nine acres of lush indoor gardens and water features and 10 restaurants that cater to every conceivable craving. SRA will celebrate its 40th anniversary at the Annual Meeting, and many special activities are being planned that you will not want to miss.

## **SRA International Announcements**

- Missed the SRA 2006 Symposium?  
2006 Symposium Proceedings Publication - filled with contributed papers, abstracts, posters and more - is now available.
- This Month at the SRA STORE  
Research Administration and Management, Now Discover Your Strengths, and more!

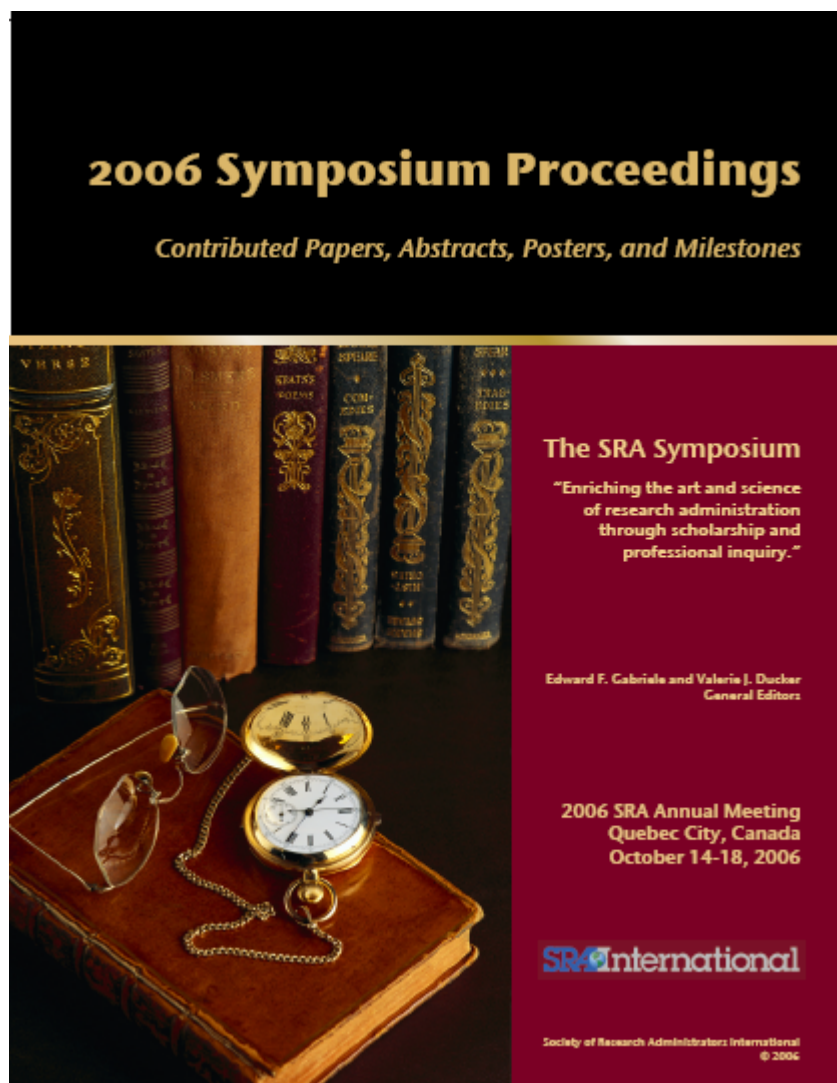
## ***Missed the SRA 2006 Symposium?***

*Don't miss the opportunity to review  
Contributed Papers, Abstracts, Posters and Milestones in research administration.*

Get your copy of the 2006 Symposium Proceedings today!

Cost: \$30.00 (U.S.)

Contact Stephanie Barnett at [sbarnett@srainternational.org](mailto:sbarnett@srainternational.org) or call  
+1-703-741-0140 ext. 10



# THIS MONTH at The SRA STORE



## Research Administration and Management

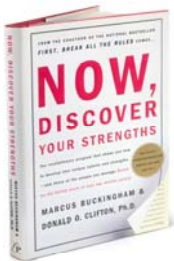
~~\$149.95~~  
**\$139.95 plus**  
**FREE SHIPPING!**

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Offer Expires  
January 31, 2007

### Synopsis

Kulakowski (pharmacology and toxicology, University of Utah) and Chronister (research administration, University of California-Davis) guide readers to develop their skills as research administrators. Topics covered range from the infrastructure needed to support research administration, to project development, post-project plans, and technology transfer. The book can be used as a reference for research managers and administrators in colleges and universities, hospitals, and research institutes receiving federal research funds. Grant and funding groups will also benefit from the information here. Annotation © 2006 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR



## Now Discover Your Strengths

**\$21.95**

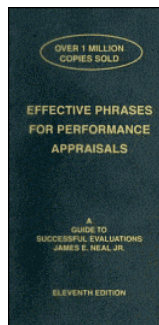
[Click Here to Purchase Now!](#)

*Now, Discover Your Strengths* is a thoughtful and persuasive book that will enrich the lives of many people by teaching them to focus on their unique potential rather than forcing themselves into jobs or roles that will probably alienate them from their own true abilities. (Sunil Sharma)

### From the Publisher

"Most Americans do not know what their strengths are. When you ask them, they look at you with a blank stare, or they respond in terms of subject knowledge, which is the wrong answer."

— Peter Drucker



## Effective Phrases for Performance Appraisals

**\$14.95**

[Click Here to Purchase Now!](#)

### From the Publisher

With the assistance of this guide, now in its eighth edition, every manager can effectively appraise employee performance. Here are over two thousand professionally written phrases which will clearly describe job performance. This valuable guide will make the completion of performance appraisals fast, easy and accurate.

## Industry News and Links

- HOT JOBS!
  - Keeping Secrets During the Job Search
  - Other Industry- Related News Links
- 

## **HOT JOBS! and Advice**

Job seekers, be proactive. Post your resume and let employers find you.

Employers, post your employment ad with SRA International for maximum exposure to attract the ideal candidate!

The SRA International Career Center allows job seekers to post resumes for free. Employers, post your ad here for maximum exposure to research administrators.

- **Job seekers**  
Create a FREE account, and start searching for that perfect career today.
- **Employers**  
Post a job listing. Use a range of tools to help you find that perfect candidate for your next job opening.

## Keeping Secrets During the Job Search

*By Kenneth Bredemeier*  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The job search process is largely about workers talking about themselves.

But some job hunters would rather keep secrets -- especially when it comes to their future schedules or plans.

While you might be a candidate for a job you're interested in, it is understandable that you might not want to be up front about an already-paid-for vacation or the intention to leave in a few months for another pursuit.

That's the gist of the dilemma described below.

A friend is graduating from grad school with a master's degree in December and thus will be unemployed come January.

He is looking into a fellowship. Applicants are not usually told whether they have been chosen to participate in this program until February; the job fair for this program is not until March. Even if he gets the fellowship, there's a possibility that he would not have a job until April. Four months without a paycheck certainly would hurt.

He has job opportunities to pursue. But here is the question: Is it OK for him to accept a job knowing that if he gets the fellowship he might have to leave within six months? Would anyone be willing to hire him if he was upfront about this issue?

In this position, says Ronald McKinley, vice president for human resources at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, it can help for the job seeker to understand fully what he is looking for. If he gets the fellowship, will he definitely take it? If he finds a job he loves, is he sure that he'll leave? These questions and others should factor into his decision.

Some employers, McKinley admits, won't hire someone who plans to leave shortly for positions in which high turnover isn't expected. "Many companies are looking for people who'd stay at least three years," he explains, because of the costs associated with training, recruiting and start-up.

As such, he says, an employer would rather know about such plans during the interview. "That's the ethical thing to do," he says. Some employers, he suggests, will be impressed by the honesty; still others may see the possibility of additional training or education as making the candidate more attractive and be willing to consider arrangements that might involve holding a job open while he's gone.

But there's no legal requirement to disclose the information -- and if the worker isn't certain that he'll leave in a few months, or believes he won't get the fellowship, he may have good reason for keeping it to himself. And that's where understanding one's true intentions can come in handy: If the graduate does land a job, McKinley says, he may like it so much he decides not to leave.

There are other options. If the new graduate simply needs income for a few months, says McKinley, he might consider tapping into savings or finding short-term work. "If he's pretty certain he's going to get this fellowship," he says, "he could take a temp job and then walk away without any qualms.

## Other Industry Related News Links

### New Research Institute in Virginia

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/04/AR2006120401292.html>

A top scientist at the National Institutes of Health whose alleged failure to disclose consulting contracts with a drug company helped set off a probe of possible ethical lapses by researchers was criminally charged yesterday with violating federal conflict-of-interest rules.

Pearson "Trey" Sunderland III, 55, who was chief of the Geriatric Psychiatry Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health, faces one misdemeanor count that could bring a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine, federal prosecutors said. The charge was outlined yesterday in a document called a "criminal information" -- a signal that Sunderland had waived the usual grand jury indictment process, and that a plea agreement may be forthcoming.

In charging Sunderland, prosecutors alleged that he accepted \$285,000 in consulting fees and other payments from the Pfizer Inc. drug company between 1997 and 2004. Sunderland, who lives in Chevy Chase, failed to list these payments on the required disclosure forms, prosecutors said.

At the time, Sunderland's department was working with Pfizer in research to identify chemical warning signs of Alzheimer's disease. As part of the research, Sunderland helped provide hundreds of government-owned tissue samples for analysis.

In August 2005, a year after Sunderland's case came to light, NIH imposed rules that bar employees from working for, or owning stock in, drug or biotech companies.

Sunderland's Washington attorney, Robert F. Muse, said yesterday he would have no comment on the case.

In previous interviews, Muse had said that Sunderland had made no efforts to conceal his outside work and that many NIH researchers had come to see the disclosure forms as "basically a bureaucratic nuisance." Sunderland himself invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination when called to testify before a House of Representatives subcommittee in June.

Don Ralbovsky, a spokesman for the Bethesda-based NIH, said that Sunderland remains an employee and now works as a "special assistant and senior adviser" in a division that gives out grants. He said he could not comment on whether NIH is seeking to terminate him. The Geriatric Psychiatry Branch no longer exists, Ralbovsky said.

Sunderland's first hearing is scheduled for Friday morning in U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

Both the size of the payments and the transfer of human tissue made Sunderland's one of the most infamous examples of apparently lax oversight at the health institutes. Congressional

investigators found that 44 researchers had off-the-books relationships with drug and biotech companies.

"I found this story incredibly distressing because it is so important that people have confidence in the NIH," Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), who heard testimony about Sunderland at a subcommittee hearing this summer, said yesterday. "It is a pretty big move for people to donate human tissue to further scientific discovery. People have to have confidence that that decision . . . is treated with the utmost respect."

Charging documents filed yesterday by the Maryland U.S. attorney's office say Sunderland's involvement with Pfizer began less than a year after he became head of the branch in 1997.

The charging document provides this account:

In 1998, the institute, Pfizer and another company had agreed to work together on a project to find "biomarkers" of Alzheimer's in samples of cerebrospinal fluid provided by the government. Then, Sunderland signed his own side agreement: He would be paid \$25,000 a year for consulting with Pfizer, plus a \$2,500 fee every time he attended one-day meetings with the company.

The same year, a similar arrangement was set up when NIMH and Pfizer agreed to collaborate on a study of two "biomarkers" that were already believed to help identify Alzheimer's cases. Sunderland made his own deal, again without disclosing it to his bosses, to receive another \$25,000 per year, prosecutors alleged.

In total, prosecutors said, Sunderland was paid \$285,000, plus travel expenses. Though congressional investigators had previously said he had also violated rules by transferring the tissue samples, Sunderland was not charged with that yesterday.

## Funds given to academic guilty of misconduct

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,20919278-2702,00.html>

A MEDICAL researcher found guilty of scientific misconduct by an independent committee of experts, and of academic misconduct by his own institution, has been given a \$385,875 grant by the nation's chief medical research body.

The National Health and Medical Research Council has given Bruce Hall and his colleagues the money for research into liver transplant tolerance and rejection.

This is despite the NHMRC deciding in 2002 to write to the University of NSW, where Professor Hall worked, "expressing its concern" and suspending all medical research grant money to him. At the time, the NHMRC executive head of the Centre for Research Management, Suzanne Northcott, said his actions had "the potential to damage the reputation of Australian science".

Towards the end of 2001, three members of Professor Hall's UNSW transplant research unit at Liverpool Hospital, in southwest Sydney, complained about him to hospital and UNSW authorities under the Protected Disclosures Act. They claimed test results in a research paper were false. These results were then used in Professor Hall's application for grant money from the publicly funded NHMRC.

Dissatisfied with an in-house review, UNSW's governing council ordered an inquiry by an independent group of experts chaired by former High Court chief justice Gerard Brennan. The independent review concluded, on seven charges, that Professor Hall had behaved with a "reckless disregard for the truth" and had "deliberately deceived" and "seriously deviated" from commonly accepted scientific practices.

Ms Northcott told The Australian last month the NHMRC had suspended all grants to Professor Hall.

Professor Hall maintained his innocence throughout. The UNSW management backed him and did not accept the Brennan report, organizing its own committee of experts to examine the allegations. It found Professor Hall was guilty of academic misconduct but not the more serious charge of scientific misconduct.

Professor Hall declined to comment.

## Too Little Bang for the Buck in Drug Research?

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1572974,00.html>

Whenever critics complain about the high cost of prescription drugs, the pharmaceutical industry's standard defense is that companies have to plow so much money into researching innovative new medicines. But a recently released report from the Government Accountability Office casts doubt on that rationale. Yes the industry is spending heavily on R&D, the GAO found, but it turns out big pharma isn't actually generating such a good return on their investments.

The congressional watchdog agency's 48-page study came up with disturbing numbers. From 1993-2004, spending by U.S. drug companies on research and development jumped 147%, from \$16 billion to nearly \$40 billion annually. But the number of applications the pharmaceutical firms submitted to the Food and Drug Administration for potentially groundbreaking new drugs during that 10-year period increased only a meager 7%. And since 1995, the applications for these innovative drugs have been dropping each year. "The productivity of research and development investments has declined," the GAO concluded.

Ironically, the shrinking pipeline comes at a time when basic science is bursting with new breakthroughs in fields like human genome decoding, which in turn have raised hopes for breakthrough cures and treatments of serious illnesses. But the numbers show otherwise. The GAO reviewed all 1,264 of the new drug applications submitted for FDA approval from 1993-2004 and found that 60% of them were actually for what industry analysts call "me too" drugs—variations of medications already out on the market. Only 12% of the applications were for what the FDA classified as "priority" new drugs—that is, medications with new chemical ingredients that will have significant therapeutic benefits in treating or preventing a disease.

The three Democrats who asked for the GAO study—Rep. Henry Waxman, Sen. Edward Kennedy and Sen. Richard Durbin—pounced on its findings as proof once more that corporate greed in health care is shortchanging consumers. "The report shows that much drug industry research doesn't translate into real breakthroughs for patients," says Kennedy. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, which represents the drug industry, fired back that the GAO report only confirms that developing new drugs has become a more expensive, difficult and risky exercise for manufacturers. "Researchers are tackling increasingly complex diseases using new tools—such as genomics, proteomics and nanotechnology—that will take years to bear fruit," says PhRMA Senior Vice President Ken Johnson, adding that "more than 2,000 new medicines are in development, including 646 medicines for cancer, 146 for heart disease and stroke, 77 for AIDS, and 56 for diabetes."

But business interests have actually been a factor in curbing innovations, the GAO found. During the past decade the pharmaceutical industry has tended to focus on "blockbuster drugs" for large patient populations that can generate as much as \$1 billion in annual sales, while ignoring "other drugs for more limited populations that generate much less revenue." Manufacturers find "me too" drug development less risky and more potentially lucrative than research into brand-new medications. Drug company mergers in the early 1990s also have resulted in the larger firms' scaling back R&D into new drugs as they look to cut costs.

But the bottom line isn't the only culprit. It does take on average more than 13 years and often several hundred million dollars for a company to research and test a major new drug before it's presented to the FDA for approval. Only about one of every 10,000 chemical compounds that are first tested end up as medicine cleared by the feds. Converting basic scientific research into effective medicines to treat complex diseases like cancer has also become more difficult the past several years with more expensive and longer drug trials, as well as higher failure rates. There's also a shortage in this country of what are called "translational researchers"—people with both medical and scientific degrees who have the expertise to convert scientific discoveries into workable drugs.

The GAO had the National Academy of Sciences convene a panel of 14 doctors, scientists, pharmaceutical industry researchers and patient advocates to come up with ways to spur innovation. They recommended more collaboration among government, industry and academia. Colleges, for example, could offer more scholarships to train translational researchers. The government could offer more incentives for innovative drug research. Patents for breakthrough drugs could be extended from the current 20 years to 25-30 years, while patents for "me too" drugs could be shortened to 10 years. Otherwise the billions for research will end up producing bigger profits, but not necessarily better medications.