

## Introduction

The Australasian Research Management Society's international conference is organised yearly. The 2023 conference in Sydney was the first in person conference since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The conference was held from 6 September with a gala dinner on 8 September to celebrate participants and award ceremony. Over 760 participants from 13 countries attended the conference, 10 sponsors, 24 posters and 74 oral presentations.

I presented both oral (impact of unsuccessful research funding on Australian researchers: a scoping review) and poster (developing career tool for research management and administration professionals) presentations.

My objectives of attending included improving communication skills through presentation, networking, collaboration and keeping abreast of the latest in research management to help improve my professional development. I was able to attend sessions on artificial intelligence, indigenous research management, research costing and pricing, research integrity and the use of data analytics to inform research management decisions.

**Artificial Intelligence:** The keynote address was by Prof Seyedali (Ali) Mirjalili from Torrens University Australia on Artificial Intelligence.

### Key lessons

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) has come to stay, and it should be used responsibly.
- The potential benefits of AI include:
  - increased efficiency, improved decision making, enhanced performance, better customer service, innovation, and new opportunities. Other uses of AI in research management include data analysis and insight, resource allocation, collaboration and networking, project management, grant proposal evaluation, research impact assessment, science communication
- Despite the benefits, there are risks biasness and discrimination, privacy and misuse, job displacement and IP ownership.
- Journal publishers were the first to come up with policies relating to the use of AI in research outputs while the NHMRC (May 2023) and ARC (June 2023) also provided their policy statement to guide the responsible use of generative AI in research grant writing and evaluation.
- Institutions are expected to develop their own policy if not yet done.

**Indigenous research and research management:** Presentation by a participant from Curtin University

### Key lessons

- Curtin University has developed contract agreement specific for indigenous research.
- Increase the inclusion of indigenous peoples in research such as early consultation, community engagement, adaptability, capability development, increase in STEM awareness, hiring more indigenous people into higher education.
- Institutions need to incorporate or set up indigenous research management system due to the uniqueness of the research relating to the indigenous peoples.

**Research Costing and Pricing:** Presentation by a participant from the University of Melbourne

### Key lessons

- They emphasise the Research Offices need to train researchers and create awareness on how to cost their project appropriately as many researchers underestimate the cost of their projects while the cost of research outweighs the investment.
- The University of Melbourne spent two years to develop their research costing and pricing model with consultations with different stakeholders.

## Research Integrity

### Key lessons

- Research Integrity refresher course for HDR candidates every 2 years.
- Reflective practice by researchers asking themselves action-based questions on the conduct of responsible research.
- Translation of principles of research integrity into practice is of importance.

## Conclusion

I was able to attend this year's conference due the support of the University of Tasmania and a travel award by ARMS. Attending the ARMS 2023 conference afforded me the opportunity to achieve my objectives such as networking (networked with professional colleagues within and outside Australia including New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore), collaboration, improving my communication skills and be abreast of the current developments in research management and administration.