◆ ECB/QVR Steering Committee

Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2006
Time:	10:00–11:30 a.m.
Location:	Fernwood Bldg., Room 3D-18
Chair:	Pete Morton
Next Meeting:	**Wednesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m., Fernwood 3D-18**

Action Items

1. (Tom Tatham) Make a presentation at the next meeting showing how to update a customized report.

System Advisory

Pete Morton announced that the eRA System (IMPAC II) has encountered some problems that have caused the system to slow down considerably. He then read the announcement that was sent out today: http://impacii.nih.gov/doc/pdf/Service_Advisory_03-01-06.pdf. He emphasized that the problem is NOT one of capacity, nor is it a fault of e-Submissions. If anything it relates to the quick transition from paper-based submissions to electronic ones, and the effect other programs that access the eRA documents database have on it. Many of these programs are not scaling well with the huge increase in the documents database. The documents database has increased as much since December as it had increased in the last three years. Pete has a team fixing the two immediate causes of the slow down, and over the next weeks will continue to evaluate the many programs that access the database be sure that they will not become a problem in the future. Updates will be posted on the eRA Web site (http://era.nih.gov/) under **Project News**.

Introductions

A number of new people were in attendance, including many who are in a budget office and have started to use the new functionality in QVR. Also, since Thor presented QVR to the Help Desk staff, a few of them were present also.

Discussion Topics

Multiple-PI Project Status

NIH will receive the first multi-PI application in May to be awarded in September. The implementation will not change the grant number. There will be multiple PIs listed for one grant. While all PIs will be considered equal and will be listed in alphabetical order, there will be one "contact PI" so that all communication will go through one PI. For now, testing for multi-PI will be done on a small number of types of applications. In the future, the initiative may expand to include multiple institutions and other variations.

Working with the eRA Team

QVR has begun to work more closely with eRA. eRA sees QVR as a reporting tool, which it also can use for data quality. Initially, QVR was purely extramural grants but now is more complex and has broadened

its reach to other areas, such as budget, awarded extramural contracts, etc. Thor thanked Pete for helping to forge closer ties with eRA, which will be a common benefit.

All Extramural: Needs for drill-downs to CAS Details

Don Tiedemann and Earl Hodgkins have been working on the "all extramural" feature, which includes contracts, loan repayments, and TAPS—obligation data only at this time. QVR accesses the Central Accounting System (CAS) for contracts across the NIH. Earl met with the budget staff to show them the All Extramural Search Profile; he received positive feedback. Now, the team is developing some standard reports. The reports will include a list for all CAS-obligated and, from the eRA System, award amount. These reports can be downloaded to an HTML screen or to Excel.

Receipt of electronic applications through Grants.gov: Current Status

Pete reported that electronic submission is changing the way things work, such as the problems of scaling for some applications using the eRA System, as discussed. It's also changing the way NIH does business and it's uncovering issues and forcing improvements. It's forced the Helpdesk to put processes into place that work better, such as increasing the size of Help fields so that more information can be conveyed. There will be problems in the next round but overall, it should be a more smooth process.

The biggest area of concern now is how to accommodate Macintosh users. Today, Mac users have to use the Citrix servers as a workaround, or use a PC emulation program, or use a Service Provider. Grants.gov staff has been satisfied to wait until PureEdge™ releases its Macintosh forms package, which wasn't scheduled for at least a year. However, after a Senator called the Grants.gov staff on the carpet for answers, a number of "solutions" have suddenly appeared. CIT has been provided funding to quadruple the capacity of the Citrix environment. PureEdge, which was bought by IBM, has committed to a *beta* Macintosh solution in September with a final release in November. The Citrix workaround should be able to handle Mac users until PureEdge is available.

Updating Customized Reports

Tom Tatham reported that the CSR IT staff is writing code to allow a user to update a customized report by allowing the user to refresh raw data downloaded from QVR. The feature will allow users to save all defaults for the report. He will make it available to all QVR users.

Action: **(Tom Tatham) Make a presentation at the next meeting showing how to update a customized report.**

NIH Roadmap Update

No new information.

Items Put into Production since the Last Meeting

- **Search Screen Enhancements:** Auto tab PCC and Project number position, Accession number, CAS Document number, Appropriation.

- **Custom Download Selection Screen modified:** Mini-tutorial sent out. Cathy Buckley showed the new modifications to the Selection Screen.

- **New Custom Download Items:** Review meeting Agenda Number. The group asked that it be optional to save the last download list.

- **Just in Time (JIT):** A link to the JIT documents that are submitted through the eRA Commons has been added to the QVR Hit list.

- **Tutorial on 2.35% reductions on non-competing applications.** The tutorial is available on the Reports Option Page, Non-competing.

- **SBIR-STTR:** Rank order of applications not percentiled in Review meeting..

ECB/QVR and Related Training Classes

Pete said that Izja Lederhendler, director of the Office of Research Information Systems (ORIS), which includes eRA, is encouraging his staff to attend Thor's classes, especially *Understanding the Grants Process.*

- **Introduction to the QVR System**
  - April 6, Thursday, 1–4 p.m., Fernwood Bldg., Lower Level Classroom
  - May 4, Thursday, 1–4 p.m., Fernwood Bldg., 3E-02
  - June 5, Monday, 1–4 p.m., Fernwood Bldg., 3E-02

- **Intermediate QVR Training**
  - May 1, Monday, 9:00 a.m.–Noon, Fernwood Bldg., Lower Level Classroom
  - June 6, Tuesday, 1–4 p.m., Fernwood Bldg., Lower Level Classroom

- **Advanced QVR Training**
  - May 2, Tuesday, 1–4 p.m., **Bldg. 12A (note location)**, Rm. B51

- **Understanding the Grants Process**
  - April 7, Friday, 9:00 a.m.–Noon, Fernwood Bldg., 3E-02
  - June 2, Friday, 9:00 a.m.–Noon, Fernwood Bldg., 3E-02

Attendees

Allison, Heather (CIT)	Geiler, Christen (NIDCR)	Seppala, Sandy (ORIS/LTS)
Aung, Annie INIGMS)	Green, Kevin (NCCAM)	Ta, Loan (NIA)
Barnes, Martha (NIEHS)	Hodgkins, Earl (CIT)	Tatham, Thomas (CSR)
Bashir, Karen (NIA)	Hughes, Steve (OER)	Tetter, Lisa (NIGMS)
Bleakley, Carol (OD)	Hymiller, Jane (NIAMS)	Tiedemann, Don (CIT)
Buckley, Cathy (CIT)	Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)	Underwood, Brenda (NICHD)
Chandler, Karen (NIGMS)	Jordan, Paul (NIEHS)	Vess, Nancy (NIGMS)
Connors, Anne (NIAMS)	McDermott, Julie (NIDDK)	White, Lovell (CIT)
Ensley, Susan (NCRR)		Wong, JoAnne (NIMH)
Erickson, Rebecca (NINR)	Morton, Pete (CIT/ORIS)	Woodland, Rayseen (NCRR)
Fischetti, Greg (NCI)	Peng, Lisa (NIDCR)	Wysong, Chad (NIDDK)
Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT)	Roberts, Tony (CIT)	