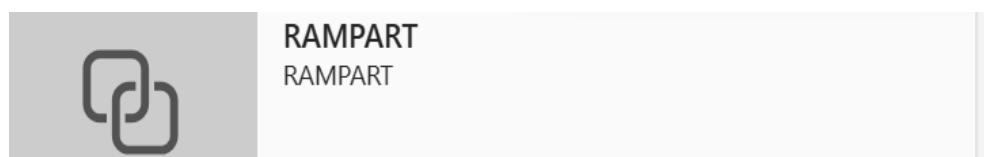


## Navigating Research in the Changing Landscape

*Dawn Bonnell, Senior Vice Provost for Research*

As the federal agencies that support academic research undergo significant changes, we are faced with uncertainties as we try to navigate the evolving landscape. Here we announce two new platforms that support proposal success and identification of potential new funders. In addition, a reminder of some useful tools we have on hand, including the most up-to-date on guidance on engaging with federal agencies.



Risk Assessment Model for Proposal and Award Rapid Testing

To access RAMPART, click [HERE](#)

Log in with PennKey credentials

RAMPART has been developed by faculty in the Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM) and staff from several PSOM and University teams. It is a tool to assess the risks in a proposal. It is available for optional use by all Penn faculty, trainees, and staff interested in understanding the level of risk their grant proposals and awards may face in terms of not being reviewed, not being funded, or having funding withdrawn. Components of a proposal are entered into text box, which assesses potential risks associated with the specific agency profile.

In early testing, the model performance was excellent, but like all models, it is not perfect. We anticipate that future iterations of the model will be increasingly accurate and will also include an interactive chat option to allow Penn investigators to receive suggested wording that may reduce the risks of their proposals being flagged as inconsistent with current federal priorities.

This model will be regularly updated by retraining it on evolving federal agency actions and requirements, thereby promoting its ability to remain up-to-date and relevant.

Penn investigators may choose to use or not use entirely at their discretion. The information investigators submit through this tool will not be shared with any entity outside the University. During use of this first version, Penn IDs and the text submitted through the tool for evaluation will be stored for up to a month (likely much shorter) to help the RAMPART development team – including two PSOM faculty and limited staff in Penn Medicine DnA, ISC, and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research – debug any issues that are encountered and improve the user experience going forward. These team members will also be able to evaluate aggregated use data.



Now, researchers at Penn have access to a powerful new tool: **Pivot-RP**. This platform enhances the discovery of sponsored research opportunities, making the process faster, more targeted, and more efficient. Pivot-RP also simplifies communication with potential collaborators by offering seamless ways to share opportunities.

An industry-standard, global resource, Pivot-RP hosts an easily searched comprehensive database containing over 38,000 funding opportunities across all areas of academic research. Sponsors include government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and foundations.

More than just a search engine, Pivot-RP functions as a collaborative tool. It uses AI-powered recommendations tailored to individual researcher profiles, which are built from publicly available information such as departmental pages, research group websites, and university center profiles. When conducting a search, users not only receive funding matches but also suggestions for potential collaborators—both within and beyond Penn—based on the topic of interest. Each search can be curated, saved, and shared with others, supporting a more connected and strategic research environment.

The PIVOT-RP platform is freely available to anyone with a PennKey. Access to Pivot-RP is [HERE](#).

## **Additional Support Platforms Supporting Research**

### **SPIN**

SPIN is a longstanding resource that is part of the PennERA system. The SPIN database provides info from private and government sources. Access SPIN by logging into PennERA and selecting “Find Funding” on the top right.

### **Info Ready**

InfoReady assists faculty in building proposals that are reviewed within the university. Requirements vary with each funding opportunity. Many Limited Submission Opportunities are managed within the InfoReady platform along with the annual grants program for the University Research Foundation. Applicants add certain information into text fields while other sections require uploads of PDF documents. You can save a draft return to it any time before the deadline. A completed proposal is assembled into a single PDF document by InfoReady. Once a proposal is completed and submitted, InfoReady sends an email message to confirm receipt. The InfoReady platform is not used to apply directly to any external agency or foundation. Proposals submitted here are only reviewed in university competitions.

InfoReady is accessed [HERE](#).



The Office of Research Services updates information and guidance related to federal grants. The site ‘Information Related to the Impact of the Presidential Transition on Federally Funded Activities’ is in the link below.

<https://researchservices.upenn.edu/information-related-to-the-impact-of-presidential-transition-federal-funds/>