Gerry,

On Thursday, September 24, 2015, John Palesis, Deborah DiazGranados, and I reviewed progress on the Social Network Analysis. In brief, I am asking for your help:

The Grant Collaborations Dataset provided to us for the Social Network Analysis (SNA) project contains significant information that will allow us to:

a)       analyze collaboration patterns across individual investigators and across departments/units,

b)       describe how these patterns have evolved since 2004, and

c) explore possible correlations between grant collaboration patterns and grant success (i.e., funding).

As discussed during our meeting of July 1, 2015, it would be useful to include in our analysis demographic and other types of Investigator data that may deepen our understanding of collaboration patterns across the VCU community.  In the past, such data has been provided to us in a separate HR Dataset which notably includes V-numbers for all VCU teaching and research faculty.  The V-numbers are unique identifiers for Investigators and can be used effectively to combine information from different datasets, provided all datasets include V-numbers.

Unfortunately, the Grant Collaborations Dataset we currently have includes V-number for ONLY the PI and not for the other Investigators collaborating on a grant.  Based on a previous dataset provided to us in 2014, we know it is feasible to include V-numbers for all Investigators in the Grant Collaboration Dataset.  It seems likely the V-numbers can be included by simply tweaking the existing query that pulls the dataset from the database.

Because we anticipate recurring and ongoing value to application of SNA to the investigator data set, will you please request from the person managing the Grant Collaborations database (James Ward, I think): a) a new version of the Grant Collaborations Dataset that includes all V-numbers, and b) ongoing access to this database by Debbie DiazGranados, John Palesis, and myself, in order that we may run limited studies on our own to address opportunities to improve education, training, or policy regarding clinical and translational research here at VCU?

Paul