

Announcing Research and Innovation Solutions

Carolina Public Health Solutions [the office that manages funding from the Gillings gift] and the Office of Research have merged. The new office is called **Research and Innovation Solutions (RIS)**. **We believe this will be good for students, faculty and staff at the School.**

Several factors drove the change. One is budget. Across the School, we have sought ways to manage the substantial budget cuts we have experienced over the last few years. The consolidated office will be more efficient, nimble and cost-effective. The two offices had complementary aims to innovate, expand funding opportunities for faculty and students and communicate about research impact. Together, the groups will be even more effective.

We will continue to innovate and bring more funding, recognition and other opportunities to the School and to identify ways to do our own work more efficiently.

Most activities and programs from the two offices will continue, including:

- Innovation Labs;
- Visiting professors and entrepreneurs;
- Scholarships for students;
- Support of innovative enterprises, such as the Water Institute;
- Research information tools, systems and technologies (such as supporting and enhancing interactive maps that show the location of research projects and REACH NC);
- Research Council and Conflict of Interest Committee;
- And other strategies for enhancing innovation, entrepreneurship and successful research applications.

Research and Innovation Solutions will maintain its role for collecting and reporting metrics and other research analytics. It will continue and expand ways it helps tell the School's successes in solving public health problems.

To refine the offering of services, RIS staff will meet with department chairs and other School leaders over the next few months. We will be delighted to attend faculty meetings if any departments would find that helpful.

Research and Innovation Solutions resides in 104 Rosenau Hall. Sandy Martin (sandy_martin@unc.edu) continues as associate dean for research, and she is part of this new office. Julie MacMillan (julie_macmillan@unc.edu) is managing director of RIS, as well as interim senior associate dean. Lori Evarts (lori_evarts@unc.edu), Francesca Florey (fflorey@email.unc.edu), and Christin Daniels (christin_daniels@unc.edu) are other members of the team. Our website consolidation is in progress. Kathleen Richards (kathleen_richards@unc.edu) provides administrative support to Research and Innovation Solutions as well as to the Office of Global Health; she spends half of each day in each office.

For more information, contact Julie MacMillan (julie_macmillan@unc.edu) or Sandy Martin (sandy_martin@unc.edu).