

From Principal Investigator to Administrator to Principal Investigator: Navigating the Transition to a Researcher Role

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Anita Mills - Administrator, Researcher and PI Wannabee
Gillian Silver - Administrator, PI
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Introductions



Administrator, PI & Sponsor



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Administrator, Researcher and PI Wannabee



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Director
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Transitioning from Principal Investigator to Administrator: Challenges and Opportunities

Shift in Perspective:

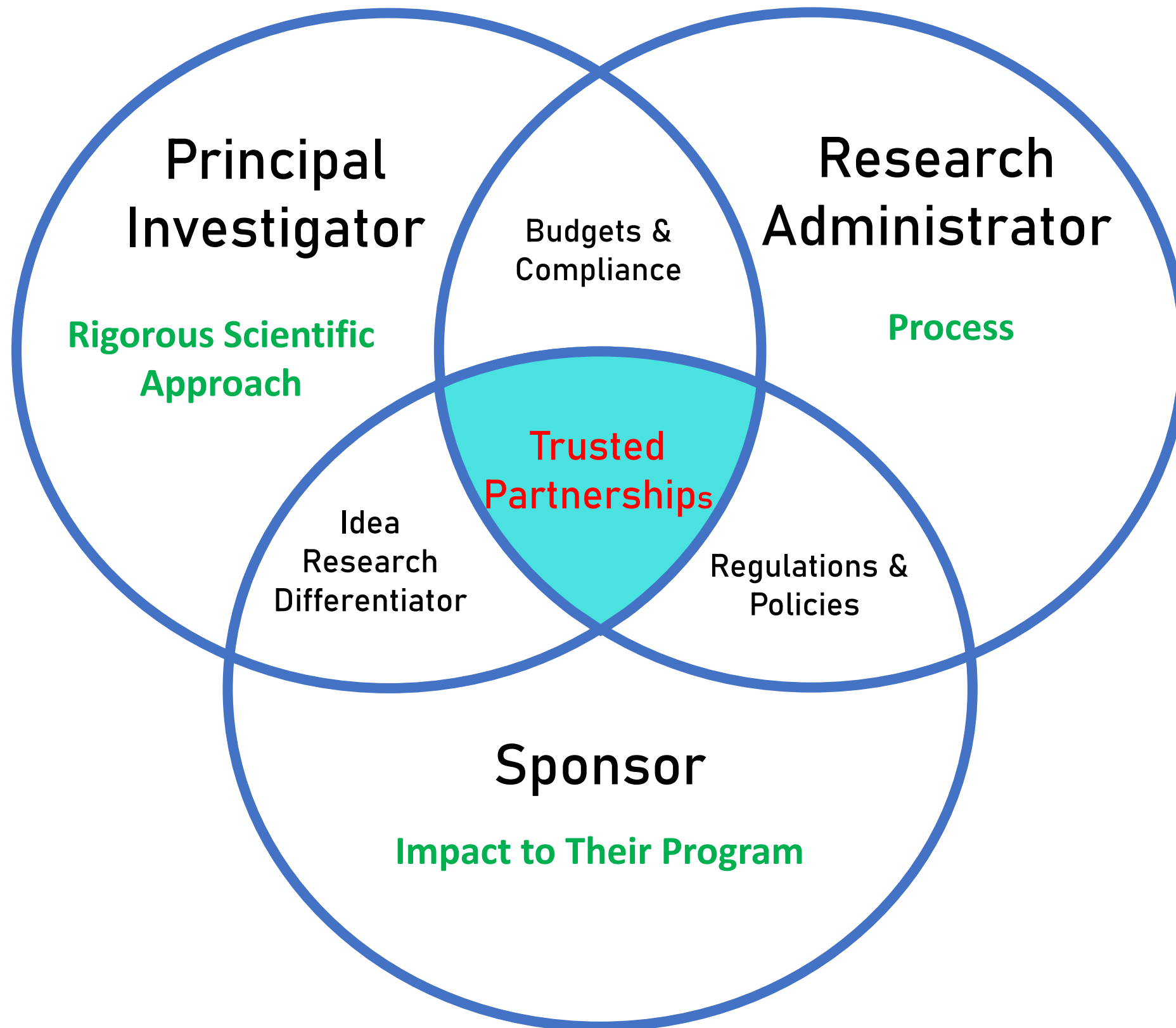
Understand the mindset and priority changes necessary to transition from PI to Administrator research administration to leading a research project.

Role Clarity:

Gain insight into the "unseen" responsibilities and expectations unique to the Administrator and PI role. PI and Administrator working together. Communication and timelines disconnects

Network Building:

Recognize the value of establishing a trusted collaborative network to support successful research leadership.





The PI Role: More Than Just Research

1 Expanded responsibilities

PIs must balance research execution with administrative oversight and strategic planning.

2 Leadership and team management

You'll guide diverse teams of researchers, students, and support staff.

3 Financial oversight and compliance

PIs manage complex budgets and ensure adherence to institutional policies.

4 Stakeholder communication

Regular reporting to funding agencies, departmental leadership, and collaborators is essential.



The Administrator: More Than Just Red Tape and Paperwork

1 Financial oversight and compliance

Administrators manage complex budgets and ensure adherence to institutional policies.

2 Leadership and team management

You'll guide diverse teams of researchers, students, and support staff.

3 Expanded responsibilities

Administrators must balance research goals with administrative oversight and compliance.

4 Stakeholder communication

Regular reporting to funding agencies, departmental leadership, and collaborators is essential.

Challenge: Balancing Administrative and Research Duties

Time management strategies

Block dedicated research time on your calendar. Protect these periods from interruptions.

Delegating effectively

Identify team members' strengths. Assign tasks that develop their skills while lightening your load.

Prioritizing tasks and projects

Use urgency-importance matrices. Focus on high-impact activities aligned with your research goals.

Opportunity: Building Collaborative Teams

Identify Gaps and Complementary Skills

Recruit for diverse expertise and perspectives

Foster Innovation Culture

Create space for creative thinking and risk-taking.
Establishing the vision and goals.

Manage Diverse Work Styles

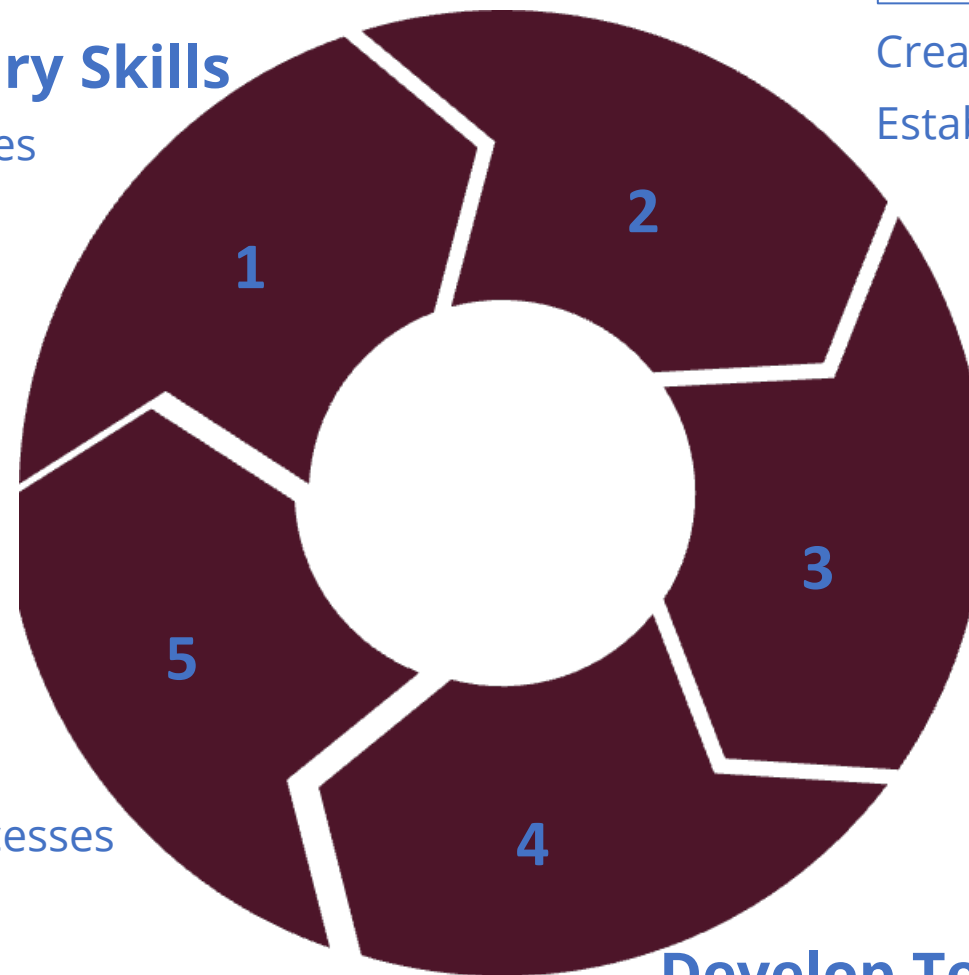
Adapt leadership approach to individual needs. Communication needs, vision and respect perspective (sponsor, administrator and PI.)

Celebrate Achievements & Thanks You's

Recognize contributions and successes

Develop Team Members

Invest in professional growth opportunities





Key Takeaways and Q&A

1

Embrace challenges as growth

Each administrative hurdle develops skills that strengthen your research program.

2

Leverage unique background

Your administrative expertise gives you advantages in organization and compliance.

3

Invest in leadership skills

Successful PIs are both excellent researchers and effective team leaders.

4

Build your support system

No PI succeeds alone. Cultivate relationships with mentors and collaborators.



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